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# “THE BOOK,”

COMPLETE:

BEING

THE WHOLE

OF

THE DEPOSITIONS

ON THE

Investigation of the Conduct

OF THE

PRINCESS OF WALES,

BEFORE

LORDS ERSKINE, SPENCER, GRENVILLE, AND  
ELLENBOROUGH,

*The Four Commissioners of Inquiry, appointed by the KING,*

IN THE YEAR 1806;

Prepared for Publication by the late

RIGHT HON. SPENCER PERCEVAL.

TO WHICH IS PREFIXED,

*AN HISTORICAL PREFACE,*

Including every Fact that has transpired since the Period of the Investigation,—the whole forming one of the most interesting Documents ever laid before the British Public.

---

By C. V. WILLIAMS, Esq.

*Author of the Life of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval*

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## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Historical Preface.....	v
Particulars respecting the Child, &c. ....	lxiii
Warrant, or Commission, authorising the Inquiry, dated May 29, 1806...	1
Deposition of Charlotte Lady Douglas, sworn June 1, 1806.....	ib.
———— Sir John Douglas, sworn on the 6th of June, 1806.....	7
———— Robert Bidgood, sworn on the 1st of June, 1806 .....	2
———— William Cole, sworn on the 6th of June, 1806 .....	10
———— Francis Lloyd, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806.....	11
———— Mary Ann Wilson, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 . ....	13
———— Samuel Roberts, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 .....	14
———— Thomas Stikeman, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806.....	15
———— John Sicard, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 .....	17
———— Charlotte Sander, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 .....	18
———— Sophia Austin, sworn on the 7th of June, 1806 .....	21
Letter from Earl Spencer to Lord Gwydir, dated June 20, 1806 .....	23
———— Lord Gwydir to Earl Spencer, dated the 21st of June, 1806..	ib.
———— Lady Willoughby to Earl Spencer, dated the 21st June, 1806	ib.
Extract from the Register of Births and Baptisms of Children, born in Brownlow-street Lying-in Hospital, dated the 23d of June, 1806..	ib.
Deposition of Elizabeth Gosden, sworn the 23d of June, 1806 .....	ib.
———— Betty Townley, sworn the 23d of June .....	24
———— Thomas Edmeades, sworn the 25th day of June, 1806....	25
———— Samuel Gillam Mills, sworn the 25th of June, 1806. ....	26
———— Harriet Fitzgerald, sworn the 27th of June, 1806.....	27
Letter from Earl Spencer to Lord Gwydir, dated the 1st of July, 1806 ..	29
———— Lord Gwydir to Earl Spencer, dated the 3d of July, 1806 ..	ib.
Queries and Answers of Lord Gwydir .....	30
Robert Bidgood's further Deposition, sworn the 3d of July, 1806.....	ib.
Deposition of Sir Francis Milman, sworn the 3d of July, 1806. ....	31
———— Mrs. Lisle, sworn on the 3d of July, 1806 .....	27
Letter from Sir Francis Milman, dated the 4th of July, 1806 .....	35
Deposition of Lord Cholmondeley, sworn on the 16th of July, 1806 ....	36
Report of the Commissioners .....	36
Letter from the Princess of Wales to his Majesty, dated Aug. 12, 1806 ..	41
Note from the Princess of Wales to the Lord Chancellor, dated August 17, 1806 .....	43
Letter from the Princess of Wales to his Majesty, dated Aug. 17, 1806..	ib.

351993

	PAGE.
Note from the Lord Chancellor to the Princess of Wales, dated August 20, 1806 .....	47
———— Lord Chancellor to the Princess of Wales, dated Aug. 24, 1806 .....	48
———— Lord Chancellor to the Princess of Wales, dated Aug. 29, 1806 .....	49
———— Princess of Wales to the Lord Chancellor, dated Aug. 31, 1806 .....	ib.
———— Lord Chancellor to the Princess of Wales, dated Sept. 2, 1806 .....	50
Letter from the Princess of Wales to his Majesty, dated Oct. 2, 1806 ...	51
Deposition of Thomas Manby, Esq. dated the 22d September, 1806 ....	158
———— Thomas Lawrence, Esq. dated the 24th September, 1806..	159
———— Thomas Edmeades, dated Sept. 26, 1806 .....	161
Memorandums of the Heads of Conversation between Lord Moira, Mr. Lowten, and Mr. Edmeades, on the 14th of May, 1806 .....	163
Deposition of Jonathan Partridge, sworn on the 25th September, 1806..	167
———— Philip Krackeler and Robert Eaglestone, sworn on the 27th September, 1806 .....	168
Letter from the Princess of Wales to his Majesty, dated 8th Dec. 1806.	ib.
Note from the Lord Chancellor to the Princess of Wales, dated Jan. 28, 1807 .....	172
———— his Majesty to the Princess of Wales .....	173
Letter from the Princess of Wales to his Majesty, dated Jan. 29, 1807 ..	ib.
Note from his Majesty to the Princess of Wales, dated Jan. 29, 1807 ...	175
———— his Majesty to the Princess of Wales, dated Feb. 10, 1807 ....	176
Letter from the Princess of Wales to his Majesty, dated Feb. 12, 1807 ....	ib.
———— the Princess of Wales to his Majesty, dated Feb. 16, 1807 ..	177
———— the Princess of Wales to his Majesty, dated March 5, 1807 ..	206
Statement of Lady Douglas, signed on the 3d December, 1805 .....	209
Narrative of the Duke of Kent, signed on the 27th of Dec. 1805 .....	250
Examinations of Sarah Lampert and William Lampert .....	254
First Examination of William Cole, dated the 11th Jan. 1806 .. ....	ib.
Second Examination of William Cole, dated the 14th Jan. 1806 .....	256
Third Examination of William Cole, dated the 30th Jan. 1806 .....	257
Fourth Examination of William Cole, dated 23d Feb. 1806 .....	ib.
Examination of Robert Bidgood, dated the 4th April, 1806 .....	ib.
———— Sarah Bidgood .....	259
———— Frances Lloyd, dated 12th May, 1806 .....	260

AN  
HISTORICAL PREFACE,  
BEING  
A CIRCUMSTANTIAL DETAIL  
OF  
ALL THE EVENTS AND PROCEEDINGS  
*Subsequent to the Publication of The Book,  
Down to Mr. Whitbread's Motion for the Prosecution of Sir John  
and Lady Douglas;*  
WITH SUMMARY REFLECTIONS,  
&c. &c.

## CONTENTS.

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*Birth and relationship of the Princess of Wales—Description of her person—Marriage proposed—Preparations at Carlton House, &c.—The Prince's allowance raised—Birth of the Princess Charlotte—Tenderness of his Majesty—Retirement of the Princess to Blackheath—Report of the Commissioners—His Majesty's message—Her Highness's letter to the King—Is still refused admittance at Windsor—Mr. Percival's alarms—Advertisement for buying up The Book—Debates in the Commons on the allowance to the Princesses—Speeches of Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Tierney, &c.—Attack of the ministerial papers upon the Princess—Suggestions of a separation, trial, &c.—Letter of the Princess addressed to her Royal Consort—Proceedings on the same—Motion of Sir Francis Burdett—Another announced by the Hon. Cochrane Johnstone—Letters of the Princess to the Speaker of the House of Commons and to the Lord Chancellor, &c.—Proceedings on Mr. C. Johnstone's motion—Resolutions moved by him—Sir John Douglas—Lord Castlereagh and Mr. Whitbread—Correspondence between the Princess of Wales, Lord Liverpool, and Lord Harrowby—Report to the Prince Regent by the Privy Council—Meeting of the Princess of Wales and the Princess Charlotte in Hyde Park—Sir John Douglas at Court—Origin of the present Inquiry with him or his Lady—Mr. Whitbread gives notice of a motion for the prosecution of Lady Douglas—The motion brought forward—Debates—Petition of Sir John and Lady Douglas—Summary Reflections, &c. &c.*

## HISTORICAL PREFACE.

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THE Princess Caroline Louisa was born on the 17th of May, 1769, being the daughter of the late Duke of Brunswick : her mother is a sister of his present Majesty : of course she is first cousin of the Prince her husband. Having been invited by the Court of Great Britain, in 1794, to marriage and to happiness, with the heir apparent, they were married on the 8th of April, 1795, the Prince being then thirty-two years of age, and the Princess twenty-six. On the 7th of January, 1796, precisely nine months from the day of their marriage, the Princess Charlotte of Wales was born ; who, being their only child, is the rightful heiress to the throne, and has now completed her seventeenth year.

In some of the newspapers of 1794, supposed to be in the confidence of government, it was then stated that the Princess of Brunswick, to whom the Prince of Wales was shortly to give his hand, was very pleasing in her person, and in her accomplishments exquisite. It was also stated that “ the idea of the Prince of Wales’s nuptials originated some time before with a great personage, who had the first interest in seeing the Prince established ; and it was accordingly hinted to him, but in so delicate a manner, as to leave it entirely to his option. Juvenile pursuits at that time suspended all further discourse about it, till, one day, his Royal Highness praising the person and accomplishments of his sister the Princess Mary, before the Duke of Clarence, the Duke observed, she was very like the Princess of Brunswick, whom he had the honour of knowing and conversing with. The Prince grew more inquisitive upon this

subject, and the Duke so satisfied him in all particulars as to afford him the highest gratification.

The affair seemingly dropped for this time; but on the morning of a great gala, at Windsor, he mentioned it to a great personage, who was delighted with the proposal; it was instantly communicated to the Queen, who felt equal satisfaction: it was then agreed to keep the matter entirely out of the cabinet, till it was in some train of forwardness; and the first notice the ministers of state had of it was an *official* notice to prepare for the embassy, the forms, requisitions, &c. After this, presents and marriage favours were prepared for the Princesses, &c. as well as marks of his Royal Highness's remembrance to several persons of both sexes about the court.

The Princess of Brunswick was then esteemed one of the best harpsichord players among the royal families on the continent; and, the Prince being passionately fond of music, it was presumed of course that *harmony* would be the order of the day.

Carlton House was furnished for the reception of the royal pair with all possible magnificence. The dressing-room intended for the Princess was said alone to amount to twenty-five thousand pounds; and the naval force appointed to escort her to this country consisted of the *Juno* of 50 guns, two yachts, four frigates, and two sloops of war. The Prince of Wales sent some of his principal officers of State, besides Maids of Honour, to attend the Princess. In the mean while a present of a magnificent cap had been made up ready for her arrival, on which was a plume in imitation of his Highness's crest, studded with brilliants, playing backwards and forwards in the manner of feathers, which had a most beautiful effect.

The appearance of the Princess at Court was said to have been majestic, but accompanied with a sweetness and affability of manners which rivetted the admiration of all that beheld her. Her eyes intelligent—her countenance highly animated—and her teeth white and regular—her hair, of which she had an amazing quantity behind, of a light auburn colour, and dressed in a simple but elegant style. Her taste in every part of her



dress was equally elegant, so that no doubt was entertained but that her Royal Highness would be the standard of fashion.

The Prince, at the time of his marriage, was *greatly in debt*; and a proposition was therefore made in Parliament for the payment of them, the Duke of Clarence having stated that when the marriage of the Prince was agreed upon, there was a stipulation that he should be exonerated from his debts. The Prince's annual allowance was accordingly raised from £60,000 to £125,000 a year, out of which sum £25,000 were set apart for the discharge of his debts. To this was added £27,000 for preparations for the marriage, £28,000 for jewels and plate, and £26,000 for finishing Carleton House. In addition to all this promised splendour, the Princess was received in England with transports of joy; addresses of admiration and gratitude poured in upon her from all quarters, and her husband was congratulated as the happiest of men. A similar torrent of addresses came in upon the birth of the Princess Charlotte. In fine, it has been justly observed, that few events caused more unmixed joy in this country than the marriage of this illustrious Lady.—But what a contrast, alas! is presented in the occurrences of the present day!

The first appearance of alloy in the conjugal happiness of the royal pair was perceived when their separation of dwelling took place in April 1796, twelve months after the marriage, and only three months after the birth of the Princess Charlotte. At length this was but too fatally confirmed by a letter sent from the Prince to the Princess of Wales, dated Windsor Castle, the substance of which had been previously conveyed in a message through Lady Cholmondeley to her Royal Highness; but it was thought by her Royal Highness to be infinitely too important to rest merely upon a verbal communication, and therefore she desired that his Royal Highness's pleasure should be communicated to her in writing.

Her Royal Highness also had the fortitude to insist upon the delivery of the message, that the Prince's arrangement should be considered as final, and that he should not retain the right from time to time, at his pleasure, or under any circum-

stances to alter it.—The letter of his Royal Highness and the dignified answer of the Princess of Wales on this trying occasion, appear in the body of this book.

There could be no doubt that so touching an appeal as this could fail to interest the paternal feelings of his Majesty; and we are well assured that while his Majesty's powers of mind remained, the Princess never did want at least one protector. And here it may be just, once for all, to pay to the Sovereign, now flattery to him can be no longer suspected, that meed of praise due to his truly paternal kindness, particularly to this unfortunate stranger. It was to him alone that she owed all the comfort she ever enjoyed in her long banishment, even the eight years society with her beloved child, which it seems secured her an unalienable place in her daughter's affections.

In a very short time after this we find her Royal Highness, as it were, completely separated *a mensa et thoro*, and withdrawn to her solitary retirement at Montague House, Blackheath. Here, to the eye of the world, she seemed totally lost in oblivion and obscurity nearly ten years, viz. from the time of her retirement in the summer of 1796, till the year 1806, when the circumstance of a secret commission began to transpire, through certain newspapers, for inquiring into the truth of certain questions respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness, still living in peaceful retirement at Blackheath.

The Report made by the above-mentioned Commission, viz. Lord Erskine, Chancellor; Lord Grenville, First Lord of the Treasury; Lord Spencer, Secretary of State; and Lord Ellenborough, Chief Justice of the King's Bench, dwelt most upon the circumstance of having examined the witnesses against her Royal Highness. Their allegations are there said to have been made consistent with certain statements laid before the Prince of Wales, imputing to her Royal Highness great impropriety and indecency of behaviour, expressly asserted, partly on the ground of certain alleged declarations from the Princess's own mouth, and partly on the personal information of the informants. Among the most important facts then said to have

been stated was, that her Royal Highness had been pregnant in the year 1802, four years previous to the inquiry!—she having then been delivered of a male child, which child had ever since that period been brought up by her Royal Highness in her own house, and under her immediate inspection.

These allegations, it was allowed, had been followed by declarations from other persons, who had not indeed spoken to the important facts of the pregnancy and delivery of her Royal Highness, but had stated other particulars extremely suspicious, when connected with the assertions already mentioned. It was then suggested by this commission, that this inquiry was not only nearly touching the honour of his Majesty's family, *but, by possibility, affecting the succession of his Majesty's crown.* The report, however, declared, there was no foundation whatever for believing that the child then with the Princess of Wales was her's; but, on the contrary, it was beyond all doubt that the child was born in Brownlow-street Hospital, on the 11th of July 1802, of the body of Sophia Austin, and was first brought to the Princess's house in the month of November following. But on the precise bearing and effects of the facts thus appearing, the commissioners asserted it was not for them to decide, they therefore recommended the case to his Majesty's wisdom, &c. This document is dated July 14, 1806, and signed by the four noble commissioners.

This report produced a message from his Majesty to her Royal Highness, acquitting her of the charges, and recommending all further proceedings to be stopped, excepting such only as his Majesty's law servants might, on a reference to them, think fit to recommend for the prosecution of Lady Douglas, on those parts of her deposition which may appear to them to be justly liable thereto. In this situation, it was added, his Majesty is advised that it is no longer necessary for him to decline receiving the Princess into his Royal presence. Her conduct in future, he observed, he hoped would be such as would fully justify those marks of paternal regard which his Majesty always wishes to shew to every branch of the royal family.

The following affecting note was written by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and accompanied her defence, see page 51 :—

“ TO THE KING.

“ SIRE,

“ In discharge of the duty I owe to myself, and the great duty I owe to your Majesty and your illustrious family, I have herewith transmitted a statement, which I confidently trust will appear to prove me not unworthy of the protection and favour with which your Majesty has pleased to honour me.

“ To be restored to that favour and protection, in consequence of a conviction in your Majesty’s mind of my innocence, produced by the papers I now humbly lay before your Majesty, is the first wish of my heart.

“ Grieved, Sire, deeply grieved as I cannot but be, that your Majesty should be exposed to so much trouble on so painful an occasion, and on my account, it is yet my humble trust that your Majesty will graciously forgive me, if extreme anxiety about my honour, and your Majesty’s favourable opinion, leads me humbly to solicit, as an act of justice, that scrupulous attention on your Majesty’s part to these papers, which cannot fail, I think, to produce, in your Majesty’s mind, a full conviction of my innocence, and a due sense of the injuries I have suffered.

“ One other prayer I with all possible humility and anxiety address to your Majesty, that, as I can hope for no happiness, nor expect to enjoy the benefit of that fair reputation to which I know I am entitled, till I am re-admitted into your Majesty’s presence, and as I am in truth without guilt, suffering what to me is heavy punishment, whilst I am denied access to your Majesty, your Majesty will be graciously pleased to form an early determination whether my conduct and my sufferings do not authorize me to hope that the blessing of being restored to your Majesty’s presence may be conferred upon, Sire, your Majesty’s dutifully attached, affectionate, and afflicted daughter-in-law and subject.

(Signed)

“ CAROLINE.”

“ *Blackheath, Oct. 2, 1806.*

In reply to a letter of the Princess, intimating a design on the part of her Royal Highness to visit his Majesty at Windsor; her being received there was expressly recommended by the Commissioners of his Majesty, who also signified his pleasure that he should prefer receiving her in London some day subsequent to the ensuing week.

However gratifying this letter might have been to the Princess, she was doomed to meet a disappointment; for, instead of an early day being appointed to receive her, she was informed, that owing to the interference of the Prince, her reception was postponed to an undefined period. This intimation the King gave her with all the tenderness imaginable, stating the real cause of the delay in the most delicate manner which the case would admit of.

Immediately after the termination of the inquiries of the Commissioners in 1806 and 7, Mr. Perceval, it is generally understood, caused the whole of their proceedings to be thrown together in the form of a book, and two large impressions of them to be printed, notwithstanding every individual person engaged in this business was sworn to observe the most inviolable secrecy. In vain was all the anxiety expressed for the communication of this mysterious Book to the public at large, as Mr. Perceval conceived that one or two copies for the use of his royal master was quite sufficient.

Nearly three years had passed on, when Mr. Perceval thought proper to attend to some whispers, implying that some copies of *The Book* were in the hands of several persons; the increasing uneasiness occasioned by this conjecture is supposed to have led to the following extraordinary advertisement:

“ A BOOK! A BOOK!

“ Any person having in their possession a certain Book, printed by Mr. Edwards, in 1807, but never *published*, with W. Lindsell's name, as the seller of the same, on the title-page, and will bring it to W. Lindsell, bookseller, Wimpole Street, will receive a handsome gratuity.”

*Times*, March 27, 1809.

Mr. Perceval's apprehensions on this subject were not unfounded; it being well known, that several persons subsequent to this notice, encouraged by the large sums gained by the holders of *The Book*, came forward; some received five hundred, some eight, and one person fifteen hundred guineas for a copy. In fact, it has been averred, that not less than twenty thousand pounds were expended in buying up, and concealing Mr. Perceval's mysterious *Book* from the public eye.

But, in spite of all these precautions, it was still the fate of Mr. Perceval to be visited with dreadful forebodings, in relation to *The Book*, only a short time before his unexpected death, when the Bill for making provision for the Princesses was before the Commons in March 1811. He then sent for every person whom he knew was acquainted with *The Book*, and expressed his apprehensions that its contents had been improperly divulged. It was then too late to take any effective measures for concealing circumstances that were sought for with an ardour increasing in proportion as the prohibition against them became more generally known.

When the business just alluded to came before the Commons, Mr. Perceval, referring to the speech of Mr. Bennet, said, "That with regard to the separation of the Royal Persons alluded to, he should say nothing. He might, and did lament it as much as any man could, but neither as a minister, nor in any other character, did he feel himself called upon to say any thing on the subject. As to what had been said respecting the grant of 10,000*l.* additional to the Queen, the Committee must be aware, that it was entirely of a different nature from that under consideration. Its object was to enable the Queen to meet expenses which she would be likely to incur, unconnected in any manner with the Princesses. There was no increase in the civil list of the Prince of Wales above that of the King; on the contrary, there was a diminution.

In the debate on the same evening, Mr. Perceval having spoken of the liberality of the Prince Regent in discharging some debts of the Princess of Wales, Mr. Whitbread urged some previous consideration; he observed,



“ When the subject of the household was lately before the House, he understood that the additional 10,000*l.* granted to the Queen was for the purpose of enabling her Majesty to take the Princesses upon her establishment. Nevertheless, he was afraid that some such proposal as the present would in a short time be made to the House. He would be glad to hear a satisfactory reason, why the present arrangement was not then taken into consideration? As to the Princess of Wales, he thought it strange that she should be so poorly provided for, when the Right Hon. Gentleman seemed to be so solicitous for providing for every other branch of the Royal Family. When the Rt. Hon. Gentleman talked of his Royal Highness taking upon himself the payment of debts to the amount of 49,000*l.* could it be forgotten, that his Royal Highness was enormously in debt himself? He, indeed, who could not pay his own debts, engaged to pay those of another:—this looked very like a juggle. The 70,000*l.* which were now appropriated to the payment of the Prince’s own debts, he observed, was without controul or limitation. The persons to whom it was confided were not responsible to Parliament, and were revocable by the Prince himself. Sixty thousand a-year was given to the King for the privy purse. Did the Right Hon. Gentleman know the extent of the debt due from the Prince?—and could he give security to the House, that after the payment of the 30,000*l.* now asked for, other demands should not be made? In his opinion, the only proper way would be, that the 70,000*l.* should be paid off; and then, if any thing farther remained, they should come to Parliament fairly and openly to pay off the whole.—There was a time when the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Perceval) not only thought it not inconsistent with his duty to give information on the subject of “ The Delicate Investigation,” but when he took every pains to spread this information as generally as possible. At that time a Book was prepared, *which was intended to be circulated most extensively, both here and upon the Continent.* The Book, however, had been suppressed, and the outstanding copies had been bought up at a great expense, out of some fund or other, whether private or public he could not say. He could

not conceive why the Right Hon. Gentleman now remained mute, when before he had a thousand tongues. As to the real income of the Queen, it was 58,000*l.* per annum, while she lived on the establishment of the King; whereas the Princess of Wales, the consort of the Prince Regent, has only 22,000*l.* per ann. and is obliged to live entirely at her own expense. *All that the nation knows of her residence is, that she lives in retirement somewhere, either at Kensington or Blackheath.* This was certainly not the situation in which the country would wish to see the wife of the Prince Regent placed, or in which they considered that she ought to be placed. At a time that additional grants were wanted for the other branches of the Royal Family, it was natural to ask, why had she been so neglected?"

Mr. Tierney said, "he had yet another objection to make relative to the civil list, and that was with respect to the provision which it contained for the Princess of Wales. There was talk, indeed, of a *separation*, but the house knew nothing of such a separation: the Right Hon. Gentleman, (Mr. Perceval) however, knew a great deal about it: he had acted as counsel in that investigation so much talked of; and it was surprising he should now sit so mute, and hear all this whispered about, respecting his favourite Princess, his client, and not have one word to say in her defence! It struck him very forcibly that there was now a person in this country representing the Prince Regent's wife, who was as much a *Queen* as he was a *King*. Thus called upon, however, the Chancellor of the Exchequer did say, on the 17th of April, 1811, "that what he had stated with respect to the Princess of Wales was, that neither in his situation as counsel to her Royal Highness, nor in any other character, was he conscious that there existed a ground of charge. He should always be prepared to make the same statement."

Mr. Whitbread on this occasion made another luminous speech. "I have," said he, "heard that the Queen is about to hold a drawing-room: of course, no hopes can now exist of his Majesty's recovery; because, if there were any, such a step, I presume, would not be resorted to; but in case that drawing-



room is held, I would wish to know if there is to be *any public appearance of the Princess of Wales?* This is no private concern; the public have a right to demand why the acknowledged consort of their Regent does not appear in public as such; no affectation of delicacy can be permitted to stand in the way of a nation's anxiety, upon a question of such national importance; if any man can satisfy the public upon this topic, it is the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Perceval). They knew him to have been at one time the zealous adviser and devoted adherent to the Princess of Wales. They believe him to have conscientiously undertaken her defence, to have written her vindication, to have perused that vindication, to have published it; that vindication is said to have involved in it *an attack upon her Royal Consort.* (*Hear, Hear!*) It was *known to have been an attack upon his Royal Highness, and the Regent's first Minister is known to have been the author of it;* and after he had published it, after it had been read by one and one hundred, it was *bought up at an enormous expense; bought up by the private secretary of the honourable gentleman.* I ask him now, *does he retain his former opinion of the unexceptionable conduct of the Princess of Wales?* I ask him if he did not lately in the House, solemnly record his confirmation of that opinion, and if it is now, what it was the other night, I call upon him to explain, if he can, *his apparent desertion of her just claims* to that respect, notice, provision, and consideration, due to the undoubted *Princess Regent* of these realms? These are questions, which, as he values his own consistency, as he values the character and claims of the Princess, and as he respects the Prince his master, he is bound to answer." And these he did answer in a manner which exculpated her Royal Highness from every shadow of culpability.

Singular and extraordinary as it may appear, certain newspapers, supposed to be in the confidence of the administration, had for some time past been in the habit of throwing out indirect censures upon the former conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; and from the frequent conferences that were said to have been held between a great personage, the Lord

Chancellor, &c. and the knowledge of some disagreement at Windsor, it was, at length, suggested that an important change in the connubial connections of the Prince were likely to take place! As to the innocence of her Royal Highness, though it had been proved and admitted by the cabinet council, it was most unfeelingly hinted, that, as the constitution knew nothing of the council's authority or its decisions, 'another trial would be necessary! Facts also were alluded to, said to be proper to come before a jury, &c. And, one evening paper of infamous notoriety, improving upon these suggestions, relative to a trial and divorce, went so far as to assert that *the Prince Regent may lose his wife, may marry again, and have a son.* Fortunately, however, for the honour and safety of the country, and to the utter confusion of these unprincipled hirelings who did not pay the least respect to the general sense of the country, which was decidedly against them, they were struck with amaze at the appearance of a letter, in the Morning Chronicle, for Wednesday, Feb. 10, from the Princess of Wales, addressed to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, as follows:—

*Letter of the Princess of Wales to the Prince Regent.*

“ SIR,

“ It is with great reluctance that I presume to obtrude myself upon Your Royal Highness, and to solicit your attention to matters which may, at first, appear rather of a personal than a public nature. If I could think them so—if they related merely to myself—I should abstain from a proceeding which might give uneasiness, or interrupt the more weighty occupations of Your Royal Highness's time, I should continue, in silence and retirement, to lead the life which has been prescribed to me, and console myself for the loss of that society and those domestic comforts, to which I have so long been a stranger, by the reflection that it has been deemed proper I should be afflicted without any fault of my own—and that Your Royal Highness knows it.

“ But, Sir, there are considerations of a higher nature than any regard to my own happiness, which render this address a duty

both to Myself and my Daughter. May I venture to say—a duty also to my Husband, and the People committed to his care? There is a point beyond which guiltless woman cannot with safety carry her forbearance. If her honour is invaded, the defence of her reputation is no longer a matter of choice; and it signifies not whether the attack be made openly, manfully, and directly—or by secret insinuation, and by holding such conduct towards her as countenances all the suspicions that malice can suggest. If these ought to be the feelings of every woman in England who is conscious that she deserves no reproach, Your Royal Highness has too sound a judgment, and too nice a sense of honour, not to perceive, how much more justly they belong to the Mother of your Daughter—the Mother of her who is destined, I trust at a very distant period, to reign over the British Empire.

“ It may be known to Your Royal Highness, that, during the continuance of the restrictions upon your royal authority, I purposely refrained from making any representations which might then augment the painful difficulties of your exalted station. At the expiration of the restrictions I still was inclined to delay taking this step; in the hope that I might owe the redress I sought to your gracious and unsolicited condescension. I have waited, in the fond indulgence of this expectation, until, to my inexpressible mortification, I find that my unwillingness to complain has only produced fresh grounds of complaint; and I am at length compelled, either to abandon all regard for the two dearest objects which I possess on earth, mine own honour and my beloved Child, or to throw myself at the feet of Your Royal Highness, the natural protector of both.

“ I presume, Sir, to represent to Your Royal Highness, that the separation, which every succeeding month is making wider, of the Mother and the Daughter, is equally injurious to my character and to her education. I say nothing of the deep wounds which so cruel an arrangement inflicts upon my feelings, although I would fain hope that few persons will be found of a disposition to think lightly of these. To see myself cut off from one of the very few domestic enjoyments left me, certainly

the only one upon which I set any value, the society of my Child, involves me in such misery, as I well know Your Royal Highness could never inflict upon me if you were aware of its bitterness. Our intercourse has been gradually diminished. A single interview weekly seemed sufficiently hard allowance for a Mother's affection.—That, however, was reduced to our meeting once a fortnight; and I now learn that even this most rigorous interdiction is to be still more rigidly enforced.

“ But while I do not venture to intrude my feelings as a mother upon your Royal Highness's notice, I must be allowed to say, that in the eyes of an observing and jealous world, this separation of a daughter from her mother will only admit of one construction—a construction fatal to the mother's reputation. Your Royal Highness will also pardon me for adding, that there is no less inconsistency than injustice in this treatment. He who dares advise Your Royal Highness to overlook the evidence of my innocence, and disregard the sentence of complete acquittal which it produced—or is wicked and false enough still to whisper suspicions in your ear, betrays his duty to you, Sir, to your Daughter, and to your People, if he counsels you to permit a day to pass without a farther investigation of my conduct. I know that no such calumniator will venture to recommend a measure which must speedily end in his utter confusion. Then let me implore you to reflect on the situation in which I am placed; without the shadow of a charge against me—without even an accuser—after an Inquiry that led to my ample vindication—yet treated as if I were still more culpable than the perjuries of my suborned traducers represented me, and held up to the world as a Mother who may not enjoy the society of her only Child.

“ The feelings, Sir, which are natural to my unexampled situation, might justify me in the gracious judgment of Your Royal Highness, had I no other motives for addressing you but such as relate to myself. But I will not disguise from Your Royal Highness what I cannot for a moment conceal from myself, that the serious, and it soon may be, the irreparable injury which my Daughter sustains from the plan at present pursued, has done more in overcoming my reluctance to intrude upon

Your Royal Highness than any sufferings of my own could accomplish ; and if for her sake I presume to call away Your Royal Highness's attention from the other cares of your exalted station, I feel confident I am not claiming it for a matter of inferior importance either to yourself or your people.

“ The powers with which the Constitution of these realms vests Your Royal Highness in the regulation of the Royal Family, I know, because I am so advised, are ample and unquestionable. My appeal, Sir, is made to your excellent sense and liberality of mind in the exercise of those powers ; and I willingly hope that your own paternal feelings will lead you to excuse the anxiety of mine for impelling me to represent the unhappy consequences which the present system must entail upon our beloved child.

“ Is it possible, Sir, that any one can have attempted to persuade Your Royal Highness, that her character will not be injured by the perpetual violence offered to her strongest affections—the studied care taken to estrange her from my society, and even to interrupt all communication between us ? That her love for me, with whom, by His Majesty's wise and gracious arrangements, she passed the years of her childhood, never can be extinguished, I well know ; and the knowledge of it forms the greatest blessing of my existence. But let me implore Your Royal Highness to reflect how inevitably all attempts to abate this attachment, by forcibly separating us, if they succeed, must injure my child's principles— if they fail, must destroy her happiness.

“ The plan of excluding my Daughter from all intercourse with the world, appears to my humble judgement peculiarly unfortunate. She who is destined to be the Sovereign of this great country, enjoys none of those advantages of society which are deemed necessary for imparting a knowledge of mankind to persons who have infinitely less occasion to learn that important lesson ; and it may so happen, by a chance which I trust is very remote, that she should be called upon to exercise the powers of the Crown, with an experience of the world more



confined than that of the most private individual. To the extraordinary talents with which she is blessed, and which accompany a disposition as singularly amiable, frank, and decided, I willingly trust much ; but beyond a certain point the greatest natural endowments cannot struggle against the disadvantages of circumstances and situation. It is my earnest prayer, for her own sake as well as her country's, that Your Royal Highness may be induced to pause before this point be reached.

“ Those who have advised you, Sir, to delay so long the period of my Daughter's commencing her intercourse with the world, and for that purpose to make Windsor her residence, appear not to have regarded the interruptions to her education which this arrangement occasions ; both by the impossibility of obtaining the attendance of proper teachers, and the time unavoidably consumed in the frequent journeys to town, which she must make, unless she is to be secluded from all intercourse, even with Your Royal Highness and the rest of the Royal Family. To the same unfortunate counsels I ascribe a circumstance in every way so distressing both to my parental and religious feelings, that my Daughter has never yet enjoyed the benefit of Confirmation, although above a year older than the age at which all the other branches of the Royal Family have partaken of that solemnity. May I earnestly conjure you, Sir, to hear my intreaties upon this serious matter, even if you should listen to other advisers on things of less near concernment to the welfare of our child ?

“ The pain with which I have at length formed the resolution of addressing myself to Your Royal Highness is such as I should in vain attempt to express. If I could adequately describe it, you might be enabled, Sir, to estimate the strength of the motives which have made me submit to it. They are the most powerful feelings of affection, and the deepest impressions of duty towards Your Royal Highness, my beloved Child, and the Country, which I devoutly hope she may be preserved to govern, and to shew by a new example the liberal affection of a free and generous people to a virtuous and constitutional monarch.

“ I am, Sir, with profound respect, and an attachment which nothing can alter,

“ Your Royal Highness’s

“ Most devoted and most affectionate

“ Consort, Cousin, and Subject,

(Signed) “ CAROLINE LOUISA.”

“ Montague House, 14th Jan. 1813.”

The course of the letter is said to have been as follows :—It was transmitted immediately after it was written to Lord Liverpool and Lord Eldon, sealed, by Lady Charlotte Campbell, as lady in waiting for the month, expressing her Royal Highness’s pleasure that it should be presented to the Prince Regent, and there was an open copy for their perusal.

On the 15th of January, the Earl of Liverpool presented his compliments to Lady Charlotte Campbell, and returned the letter unopened. On the 16th, it was returned by Lady Charlotte, intimating that as it contained matter of importance to the state she relied on their laying it before his Royal Highness. It was again returned unopened, with the Earl of Liverpool’s compliments, saying, that the Prince saw no reason to depart from his determination.

On the 17th, it was presented in the same way by command of her Royal Highness, expressing her confidence that the two noble Lords would not take upon themselves the responsibility of not communicating the letter to his Royal Highness, and that she would not be the only subject in the empire whose petition was not permitted to reach the throne.

On the 19th, her Royal Highness directed a letter to be addressed to the two noble Lords, desiring to know whether it had been made known to his Royal Highness by being read to him, and to know his pleasure thereon. No answer was given to this letter, and therefore, on the 25th of January, she directed a letter to be written, expressing her surprise that no answer had been given to her application for a whole week!

To this an answer was received, addressed to the Princess, stating that, in consequence of her Royal Highness’s demand,

her letter had been read to the Prince Regent on the 20th, but that he had not been pleased to express his pleasure thereon.

It was remarked that a grand drawing-room was held on account of her Majesty's birth-day on Thursday, February 4, when the expectation of the presentation of the Princess Charlotte of Wales *by her Mother* attracted one of the most crowded attendances ever remembered; disappointment, however, ensued; her Royal Highness was not presented to the Queen!

The next public proceeding, in reference to this state of things, was the motion of Sir Francis Burdett to provide for a Regency in case of the death or incapacity of the present Regent. The honourable Baronet wished to guard against any future recurrence to those unconstitutional means which had been so lately resorted to in the appointment of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales: he concluded his speech with the wish that factions may not have the power to fill the throne with whom they please, and under what authority they please. The motion was, however, lost; but whilst the enemies of the Princess, through the medium of the daily prints, were congratulating each other, and flattering themselves that they should be able to stifle all further enquiry into the affairs of the Regent, both within and without doors, they had yet to endure greater mortifications. It was to little purpose indeed that they hinted at "a dreadful responsibility somewhere," for those persons who had advised the publication of the Princess's letter. They even plumed themselves in not having any share in bringing these circumstances before the public eye, implying, of course, that they should have no share in the punishment. In fact, they not only talked of a second trial, but some persons hinted at apartments preparing in the Tower! They imagined that as all enquiry on the part of Sir Francis Burdett had been quashed by the loss of his motion, that which had been announced by the Hon. Cochrane Johnstone would share the same fate. Nor did they once imagine that the Princess, who had already appealed to the Prince and the people in the letter she had published, would again come forward, and appeal to the Parliament itself! To their infinite confusion, however, on the



second of March, 1813, the Speaker acquainted the House, that during the sitting of the House yesterday evening, while in debate, he had received a letter addressed to him, and purporting to be from her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; the letter bore no date, nor any signature, and upon making inquiry from the door-keeper, he learned that the person who had delivered it was unknown to him; he, therefore, thought it his duty to take no step upon it, or notify it to the House, until he should hear further from that Illustrious Personage, or until he had authenticated that paper to be what it professed; and hoped his conduct in this respect was justified, in not then throwing any impediment in the way of the proceedings of the House.—*(Hear, Hear.)*—He was now, however, enabled to state to the House, that that letter was authenticated; and, with the leave of the House, he would now read a letter he had this day the honour of receiving from her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, enclosing a duplicate of the former letter, which was dated the 1st of March, 1813.—*(Loud cries of hear! hear! read! read! from all parts of the House.)*—The Speaker then proceeded to read the letters as follow:—

“ Montague House, Blackheath, March 2, 1813.

“ The Princess of Wales, by her own desire, as well as by the advice of her Counsel, did yesterday transmit to Mr. Speaker a letter, which she was anxious should have been read, without delay, to the House of Commons; and the Princess requests that the said letter may be read, this very day, to the House of Commons. The Princess of Wales encloses Mr. Speaker a duplicate of the letter alluded to.”

“ Montague House, Blackheath, March 1, 1813.

“ The Princess of Wales informs Mr. Speaker, that she has received from the Lord Viscount Sidmouth a copy of a Report made to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, by a certain number of the Members of his Majesty's Privy Council, to whom it appears that his Royal Highness had been advised to refer the consideration of documents, and other evidence, respecting her character and conduct.

“The Report is of such a nature, that her Royal Highness feels persuaded no person can read it without considering it as conveying aspersions upon her; and although their vagueness renders it impossible to discover precisely what is meant, or even what she has been charged with; yet, as the Princess feels conscious of no offence whatever, she thinks it due to herself, to the Illustrious Houses with which she is connected by blood and by marriage, and to the people among whom she holds so distinguished a rank, not to acquiesce for a moment under any imputations affecting her honour.

“The Princess of Wales has not been permitted to know upon what evidence the Members of the Privy Council proceeded—still less to be heard in her defence. She knew only by common rumour of the Inquiries which they have been carrying on, until the result of those Inquiries was communicated to her; and she has no means now of knowing whether the Members acted as a body, to whom she can appeal for redress, at least for a hearing—or only in their individual capacities, as persons selected to make a report upon her conduct. The Princess is, therefore, compelled to throw herself upon the wisdom and justice of Parliament, and to desire that the fullest investigation may be instituted of her whole conduct, during the period of her residence in this country. The Princess fears no scrutiny, however strict, provided she may be tried by impartial judges, known to the Constitution, and in the fair and open manner which the law of the land prescribes. Her only desire is, that she may either be treated as innocent, or proved to be guilty.

“The Princess of Wales desires Mr. Speaker to communicate this letter to the House of Commons.”

After a considerable pause, Mr. Whitbread rose and observed, that he had waited in the hope of seeing some honourable member, more competent than himself, rise in his place, and make some proposition to the House upon that which the Speaker had just communicated. But he felt it to be a subject of such importance, not only to the Illustrious Personage immediately concerned, but to other persons as regarding the share they

took in the transaction ; but above all, of the utmost importance as regarding the nation at large, that it was impossible such a communication could be made to the House, and suffered to pass in silence. He had waited until he saw the noble lord opposite (Castlereagh) in his place, as that noble lord was one of the confidential ministers of the crown when the reports were originally taken into the consideration of his Majesty's council, then acting under the popular name of the Cabinet Council. He had waited until he saw that noble lord in his place, who stood in the peculiar situation then as the confidential adviser of the crown ; and as the noble lord now filled the same situation as one of the confidential ministers of the crown, the noble lord must have been one of the members of that Privy Council to whom the matter has lately been referred. He had waited, therefore, until he saw that noble lord in his place : and before he rose to address the chair, he had further waited in the hope that the noble lord would have made some proposition to the House upon this most important subject ; but not perceiving the noble lord, or any other honourable member, inclined to rise, he begged leave to ask the noble lord, whether it was or was not his intention to call the attention of the House to this subject ?

Lord Castlereagh said, from the importance and delicacy of the subject, and from the manner in which it was communicated to the House, he did not feel himself called upon to make any proposition to the House ; the more especially, as an honourable member had fixed the day after to-morrow (Thursday) for a motion, to which this letter appeared to apply—he therefore did not think it necessary for him to interfere. Whatever might be the importance or delicacy of the transaction of which the honourable member had given notice, it would impose upon him (Lord Castlereagh) the necessity of giving a full explanation, and, until that time did arrive, he felt he should best fulfil his duty by not anticipating any proceeding upon the subject.

Mr. Whitbread observed, that the honourable gentleman who gave that notice (Mr. Cochrane Johnstone) was not then in the

House; but as the letter just read originated with her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, it might be proper that the House should know how far the honourable gentleman had acted in concurrence with the wishes of her Royal Highness—and it might be expedient that the honourable gentleman should inform the house upon what grounds he proceeded, whether with or without any concurrence on the part of her Royal Highness. From the subsequent communication of her Royal Highness, he was inclined to think that it was totally unconnected with the honourable gentleman's motion, and that the object of that motion was entirely without the concurrence of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and therefore he imagined the house would feel it expedient to make her Royal Highness's communication the grounds of substantive consideration—but, in the absence of the Hon. Gentleman, it was impossible for the house to come to any definite conclusion.

Here the matter dropped : immediately after, Lord Castle-reagh left the house, and in a few minutes the treasury benches were quite deserted.

A duplicate of her Royal Highness's letter to the Speaker was sent early on Monday evening, March 1, to the Lord Chancellor, but his Lordship did not lay it before the Lords, having, as is said, considered that his *duty* prevented him.

We understand his Lordship's Letter, returning the one her Royal Highness sent him to lay before the House of Lords, was to the following effect :—

“ That his Lordship found himself under the necessity of returning the letter of her Royal Highness, which he thought it his duty to advise the Princess, from considerations of propriety *as well as safety*, not to make public.” The letter concluded with an intimation, that, “ by command of the Prince Regent, the visits of Her Royal Highness, to Warwick house, were in future to be discontinued.”

To the above an answer was returned by the Princess of Wales, expressing “ surprise at the manner as well as the matter of his Lordship's communication, and particularly *at his care for the safety* of her Royal Highness; but intimating, that his

“ Lordship need be under no apprehensions on that ground, as  
“ the Constitution and laws of England were her safeguards.”  
The letter concluded with an intimation, that “ in future her  
“ Royal Highness expected to receive no more letters from the  
“ Lord Chancellor, except when signed by his Lordship in his  
“ character of one of the Privy Council.”

So great was the interest, which the public took in the Hon. Cochrane Johnstone's motion, that at a very early hour, on Thursday, March 4, the avenues to the gallery were filled with people, whose numbers continued to increase till the Speaker was induced to order the gallery to be cleared, by the Serjeant at Arms. But when peace had been restored, and Mr. Johnstone was rising to make his promised motion, Mr. Lygon moved the standing order for excluding strangers; when the gallery being again cleared, a number of peers were also excluded from their seats under the gallery. Mr. Bennett then moved an adjournment; Mr. Cochrane Johnstone declined to make his promised motion, reserving his right to bring it forward on a future day.

Mr. C. Wynne put a question to Lord Castlereagh, to know if it were the intention of his Majesty's Ministers to found any proceeding upon the Letter of the Princess of Wales to the Speaker?

Ld. Castlereagh said, he would give the same answer as he had before given to the Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Whitbread), namely, that whenever the question was regularly brought before the House, he would give such explanations as the House might call for, and he should feel to be his duty; but he did not know that it was the duty of Ministers to found any measure in that house on the subject.

Mr. Whitbread said, whatever they might think, he felt it to be a duty which the Ministers owed to the Princess of Wales, to that house which she had appealed to, and to the country, to give full and ample explanation of all those proceedings which had created the necessity of that appeal. He particularly stated, that this duty was the more incumbent upon them, as he found by a report no longer a secret, as it was published, and professed



to be signed by 22 members of the Privy Council, that it involved her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte, and the most important interests of the State, so as in fact to preclude intercourse between her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte, a decision and proceeding which every one must feel to be highly derogatory to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and that in fact it amounted to a condemnation, against which she had appealed to that house, and through that house to the country at large, which, from its characteristic generosity and love of justice, would expect to be perfectly satisfied that full justice had been done her, as her appeal to that house was founded on a total ignorance of any proceeding upon the subject whatever. With respect to the Noble Lord himself (Castlereagh) it was more particularly incumbent upon him to render the utmost explanation possible. It was a duty which he owed to the house and to the State, because, it was well known that his Lordship was a Member of that Administration, as also the Right Hon. Gentleman (Mr. Canning), who entered into an investigation of the Princess of Wales's conduct in 1806 and 1807, which investigation ended to the honour of the Princess of Wales, and was a perfect acquittal, an acquittal by most of those, whose names were attached, attesting her condemnation, and on the same principles, it was the more incumbent on the Noble Lord (Castlereagh) to reconcile these wide extremes in the results of two investigations, on the same measure of evidence, and before the same parties, as he manifestly stood personally prominent in great responsibility, under a most extraordinary and unparalleled admixture of character, as accuser and evidence, as judge and accuser, and all ultimately mixed, and separated, as best suited the final issue in view. He should therefore repeat, that it was indeed most extraordinary, that before the tribunal of popular opinion, in a case so similar, and unprecedented, implicating and involving the most important interests of the state, as studiously specified in the Report, that his Lordship, as a public servant, should hesitate to satisfy the nation and the loud calls of public justice, by the most ample details of all the evidence which had

been taken on a subject so important, involving the state interests and the character of an illustrious individual of the first rank and station in the empire. The house would recollect, that as soon as the Princess of Wales's Letter was read from the Chair, after a pause, which gave an opportunity to any other Member to rise; finding no one did so, he then asked the Noble Lord whether it was his intention to afford the explanations which became then more immediately necessary. So forcibly did it strike his mind that the Noble Lord would be prepared with them, that he could not think it possible that they would be refused. He then thought that his Majesty's Ministers would have influenced the house to have instituted a proceeding on the appeal of the Princess of Wales, and it will be recollected that with that view he called upon the honourable gentleman, whose motion stood for that day, to withdraw it, in order to remove all impediment of a proceeding on the part of ministers. Had that been done, and ministers had still declined it, he would himself have made such a proposition, and have called upon the house for their support—as, under such circumstances, he should have felt it to be his duty. As it now stood, he was still debarred, as the hon. gentleman (Mr. Johnstone) had, under the impulse of the moment, postponed his motion *sine die*—and he concluded by saying, that the call upon his Majesty's ministers was, by these circumstances, more imperative than ever to satisfy the natural expectations of the country, and the ordinary principles of justice.

Lord Castlereagh observed, he saw no reason whatever to change the sentiments he had already avowed to both the hon. gentlemen opposite.

After rather a desultory conversation amongst several members, it was agreed that the motion for adjournment should be withdrawn; and Mr. Johnstone renewed his notice for Friday, March 5.

The House met accordingly, when strangers being ordered to withdraw, Mr. Cochrane Johnstone rose and said, that it was the undoubted right of the honourable member (Mr. Lygon) to act as he had done, in clearing the House of strangers; if, how-

ever, this precaution had been taken under the impression that any thing he had to say should be unbecoming the respect he owed to that House, or inconsistent with what was due to the feelings of every branch of the royal family, such apprehensions were utterly unfounded. He thought it a duty he owed, in the first instance, to the Princess of Wales, to declare, that for the motion he was about to submit, he had no authority from her; that he had had no communication with any person or persons whatsoever, and that the proceeding originated entirely and exclusively with himself. The hon. member proceeded to observe, that it was well known that a commission had been granted by the King, in 1806, to four noble Lords, Grenville, Spencer, Erskine, and Ellenborough, to examine into certain allegations that had been preferred against the Princess of Wales. He then read the whole of the report made by the commissioners above stated, containing the most unqualified opinion, that the charge produced by Sir John and Lady Douglas, against the Princess of Wales, of having been delivered of a child in the year 1802, was utterly destitute of truth. It added, that the birth and real mother of the child, said to have been born of the Princess, had been proved beyond all possibility of doubt. The report concludes with some objections made by the commissioners, to the *manners*, or to *levity* of manners, upon different occasions, in the Princess. The hon. member next proceeded to state, that the paper he should now read was a document which he was ready to prove at the bar of the house was dictated by Lord Eldon, Mr. Perceval, and Sir Thomas Plomer, though signed by the Princess of Wales; it was a letter written, or purporting to be written, by her Royal Highness to the King, on the 2d of October, 1806, (see page 51), as a protest against the report of Commissioners, just detailed; the letter being read at length, appeared to be a formal and elaborate criticism upon the nature of the Commission under which her conduct had been reviewed; it asserted in the most unqualified terms her own innocence, and called the charges of her accusers *a foul and false conspiracy*, made *ex-parte*, and affording no appeal.—Upon this letter being read, the hon. member observed, that he fully concurred in the



sentiments it expressed upon the subject of the commission, and he insisted that the charge against the Princess before that tribunal, by Sir John and Lady Douglas, was nothing short of *treason*; that if the commissioners had power to acquit her Royal Highness of the crime charged, they had equally the power to convict her; what was the state of that country in which such a thing were even possible? Besides, he inquired, what became of Sir John and Lady Douglas? If he were rightly informed, they still persisted in the same story; if all they maintained were so notoriously false, why were they not prosecuted?—The hon. member then went on to remark, that he understood no proceedings of the late Privy Council, except the report, had been transmitted to the Princess of Wales: This was the case in 1806, but he submitted that copies of all those examinations should be given to her. The hon. member then concluded by moving, first, a very long resolution, containing nearly the whole of the report of the commissioners in 1806, with his own reasoning upon the illegality of such a commission, and terminating with expressing the expediency of a new and different trial of, or inquiry into, the same subject; the second motion was for a variety of papers connected with this subject, from 1806 to the present time.

Lord Castlereagh opposed the motion, and began by observing upon the singular line of conduct adopted by the hon. mover, in first calling upon the house to agree with him in all the facts stated in his first resolution, and then asking for information on the same subject in his second motion; at all events the information ought to have preceded the conclusions from it. His lordship could not conceive, from any reasons that had been given by the hon. member, that the house would entertain any serious doubt, that the papers called for by the hon. mover, were not at all necessary to remove any apprehension as to the successor to the throne of these kingdoms. The commissioners of 1806 had not been commissioners for the trial of the Princess, but as privy counsellors, commissioners of inquiry, and that the appointment of such privy counsellors for such purposes was the constant practice in all periods of the history of

this country. If, however, the hon. mover was serious in his opinion, that the commission of 1806 was an improper tribunal to have reviewed the conduct of the Princess of Wales, did he think the House of Commons a proper place to try either the Princess of Wales for treason, or to sit in judgment upon the levity of her manners? It was rather extraordinary in the hon. member to call upon the House of Commons to clear up the doubts on a subject when he had expressed no doubts of his own; the two learned judges who were part of the commission, Lords Erskine and Ellenborough, had entertained no doubts: they, with their skill and legal habits, had been able to trace the whole transaction to its source; it was not a judgment upon credibility of witnesses only, not upon the inconsistency alone of Lady Douglas's testimony, but the realm other of this child, Ann Austin was adduced, and its birth, with every circumstance attending it, had been clearly proved to the commission. This report, too, of the commissioners, with all the evidence on which it was founded, had been referred to his Majesty's then ministers, and they, upon oath, had unanimously confirmed that report. This was not all—the same report and evidence had been referred to the subsequent administration, and they in like manner, on their oaths, had unanimously declared the innocence of her Royal Highness. His lordship did not mean to say, that if any great doubt could be entertained by his Majesty's subjects on this important and delicate question, some declaration from Parliament, as to the succession, might not become necessary, but when such doubts have been so repeatedly negatived, would it not, he asked, be giving a sort of weight and authority to the evidence of Lady Douglas? If the affidavits of profligate persons were thus to be sanctioned, where would be the end of such attempts? Fortunately there never was a case that could excite so little hesitation. A more monstrous proposition, than to legislate on Lady Douglas's evidence, was never heard. The hon. mover had complained that no proceedings had been instituted against Sir John and Lady Douglas. His lordship had to state, that the first cabinet distinctly recommended a reference to the then law officers of the crown, to consider of such a

prosecution; and if it had not been instituted, it did not arise from any doubt in the minds of those law officers as to the punishment that would be brought down upon the *degraded* and *guilty heads* of Sir John and Lady Douglas, but it was from a wish to avoid bringing such subjects before the public.

Sir Samuel Romilly shortly vindicated the characters of the four commissioners in 1806, as well as the legality of that commission.

Mr. Whitbread rose and said, that the honourable member who made the motion had informed the house he had communicated his motion to him: he had done so; and Mr. Whitbread told him that he could not support it. The noble lord opposite (Castlereagh) on a former occasion had stated, that when the hon. member should produce his motion to-night, he would then furnish all the information that was necessary regarding the late letter. He had not so far favoured the house, and therefore, if the motion went off, and nothing was said of this letter, the Princess of Wales was most unhappily and unfortunately situated. The noble Lord talked of poisoning the public mind, by publishing the case and just demands of the Princess of Wales; he only knew by public rumour that the letter written by the Princess of Wales, in Sept. 1806, to the king, calling so emphatically for publicity, and a more fair tribunal, had been dictated by Lord Eldon, by Mr. Perceval, and by Sir Thomas Plomer. This fact had often been asserted in the presence of Mr. Perceval, and never denied by him. The last person now named (Sir Thomas Plomer) now sat opposite, and might deny it if he could. Mr. Whitbread put it to Lord Castlereagh, if it was not known to him, that all that had been said by the hon. mover, aye, more, much more, had been printed by Mr. Perceval, Lord Eldon, and the cabinet, of which he (the noble lord) was one, for the satisfaction, not only of England, but of Europe? He inquired if garbled accounts of this transaction were not now published to the world under the authority of the present cabinet?—Mr. Whitbread then entered into a narrative relating to the recent letter to the Regent from the Princess. This letter was twice returned unopened; the Princess then

“The Report is of such a nature, that her Royal Highness feels persuaded no person can read it without considering it as conveying aspersions upon her; and although their vagueness renders it impossible to discover precisely what is meant, or even what she has been charged with; yet, as the Princess feels conscious of no offence whatever, she thinks it due to herself, to the Illustrious Houses with which she is connected by blood and by marriage, and to the people among whom she holds so distinguished a rank, not to acquiesce for a moment under any imputations affecting her honour.

“The Princess of Wales has not been permitted to know upon what evidence the Members of the Privy Council proceeded—still less to be heard in her defence. She knew only by common rumour of the Inquiries which they have been carrying on, until the result of those Inquiries was communicated to her; and she has no means now of knowing whether the Members acted as a body, to whom she can appeal for redress, at least for a hearing—or only in their individual capacities, as persons selected to make a report upon her conduct. The Princess is, therefore, compelled to throw herself upon the wisdom and justice of Parliament, and to desire that the fullest investigation may be instituted of her whole conduct, during the period of her residence in this country. The Princess fears no scrutiny, however strict, provided she may be tried by impartial judges, known to the Constitution, and in the fair and open manner which the law of the land prescribes. Her only desire is, that she may either be treated as innocent, or proved to be guilty.

“The Princess of Wales desires Mr. Speaker to communicate this letter to the House of Commons.”

After a considerable pause, Mr. Whitbread rose and observed, that he had waited in the hope of seeing some honourable member, more competent than himself, rise in his place, and make some proposition to the House upon that which the Speaker had just communicated. But he felt it to be a subject of such importance, not only to the Illustrious Personage immediately concerned, but to other persons as regarding the share they

took in the transaction; but above all, of the utmost importance as regarding the nation at large, that it was impossible such a communication could be made to the House, and suffered to pass in silence. He had waited until he saw the noble lord opposite (Castlereagh) in his place, as that noble lord was one of the confidential ministers of the crown when the reports were originally taken into the consideration of his Majesty's council, then acting under the popular name of the Cabinet Council. He had waited until he saw that noble lord in his place, who stood in the peculiar situation then as the confidential adviser of the crown; and as the noble lord now filled the same situation as one of the confidential ministers of the crown, the noble lord must have been one of the members of that Privy Council to whom the matter has lately been referred. He had waited, therefore, until he saw that noble lord in his place: and before he rose to address the chair, he had further waited in the hope that the noble lord would have made some proposition to the House upon this most important subject; but not perceiving the noble lord, or any other honourable member, inclined to rise, he begged leave to ask the noble lord, whether it was or was not his intention to call the attention of the House to this subject?

Lord Castlereagh said, from the importance and delicacy of the subject, and from the manner in which it was communicated to the House, he did not feel himself called upon to make any proposition to the House; the more especially, as an honourable member had fixed the day after to-morrow (Thursday) for a motion, to which this letter appeared to apply—he therefore did not think it necessary for him to interfere. Whatever might be the importance or delicacy of the transaction of which the honourable member had given notice, it would impose upon him (Lord Castlereagh) the necessity of giving a full explanation, and, until that time did arrive, he felt he should best fulfil his duty by not anticipating any proceeding upon the subject.

Mr. Whitbread observed, that the honourable gentleman who gave that notice (Mr. Cochrane Johnstone) was not then in the



would adopt, if the report was laid on the table, and therefore he should oppose his motion.

Sir Thomas Plomer being alluded to personally, said he did not know whether he was called upon to defend himself against a charge for having been an adviser of the Princess, or for not being any longer her adviser. As to the first point, he had to say he was commanded, in 1806, to attend her Royal Highness at Blackheath, to assist in defending her Royal Highness from the charge at that time made against her—did he do wrong in not withholding that advice? As to the second point, was it expected he should tell what advice he had given?

Mr. Brand said, he was disappointed in the speech he had just heard; he expected to have heard some reply to the allusions made to the learned gentleman. In his opinion circumstances had come out which made him think the country was exposed to difficulty and danger. The noble lord had made no satisfactory reply to the honourable member below him (Mr. Whitbread): it was not enough to say the Regent had the sole prerogative of educating his daughter.—Statements had been handed about in which, it was said, the Princess was accused by suborned witnesses, and to suffer the matter to rest here was a denial of justice to the Princess; for this reason he would support the amendment of his honourable friend.

Mr. Wortley said, he felt warmly on this occasion, as a man of honour and a gentleman, but he could not vote either for the original motion or the amendment. He must at the same time say, it was not the speech of the noble lord that induced him to come to this determination, for he has left the points which are the most material in the discussion without any answer. He considered this a most galling and disgraceful subject, no less than dragging the royal family before the house. The true question was, whether ministers had done their duty first to their king, and secondly to their country. In his opinion, the four Commissioners appointed in 1806 had gone farther than they were required to do.—The Commission were to examine into a charge of one kind only; but from the evidence brought to support this, they formed another, and thus exceeded their jurisdiction. If their

report was only to go to the King, this circumstance would not have been material, but as it was to go to the Princess, it was sure to be productive of such difficulties as no woman could submit to, without complaining of the imputations that were cast upon her. But passing by this report, the next to be considered is that of 1807, which is a complete acquittal as to every point. This the noble lord has not denied in his speech; but the ministers of that day not only acquitted her royal Highness, but went farther, and advised his Majesty to receive the Princess at court; with such a report in existence, why was it necessary now to ransack the evidence of 1806, and to rake together the documents of that period to found a report upon what regulations were necessary to govern the intercourse between the Princess and her daughter? Documents, in crushing which, the noble lord had formerly been a party. If, instead of such an unjustifiable proceeding, his royal Highness the Prince regent had been advised to say, I am the father of this child, and I will act as a father is empowered to do—I am Prince of these realms, and I will exercise my prerogative of educating the successor to the throne—the country would have been satisfied, in his opinion, as he did not conceive the Princess was so popular as to fear that such advice would not have been universally approved of. The hon. gentleman said, he had as high feelings for royalty as any man; but he must say all proceedings like these contribute to pull it down. He was very sorry we had a family who do not take warning from what is said and thought concerning them. They seemed to be the only persons in the country who were wholly regardless of their own welfare and respectability. He would not have the regent lay the flattering unction to his soul, and think his conduct will bear him harmless through all these transactions. He said this with no disrespect to him, or his family: no man was more attached to the house of Brunswick than he was; but if he had a sister in the same situation, he would say she was exceedingly ill treated.

Sir Samuel Romily said, that the honourable member was mistaken as to the nature of the powers given to the Commissioners in 1806.

After a few observations, made by Mr. Smith, Mr. Ponsouby, Mr. Canning, Mr. Yorke, and Mr. Garrow, the question was put, and Mr. Johnstone's motion was negatived with a division.

The following were the resolutions moved by the Hon. Cochrane Johnstone :—

“ 1st. Resolved, That from the disputes touching the succession to the throne, bitter public animosities, tumultuous contentions, long and bloody civil wars, have at various periods of the history of this kingdom, arisen, causing great misery to the good people thereof, grief and affliction to the Royal Family, and in some cases exclusion of the rightful heir.

“ That, therefore, loyalty and affection towards the Sovereign, and a just regard to the happiness of the people, call upon every subject of this Realm, and upon this house more especially, to neglect nothing within their power to prevent the recurrence of similar calamities from a similar cause.

“ That it has been stated to this house, by a member thereof who has offered to prove the same by witnesses, at the Bar of this house, that, in the year 1806, a commission was signed under his Majesty's royal sign manual, authorising and directing the then Lord Chancellor, Erskine, Earl Spencer, the then Secretary of state for the home department, Lord Grenville, the then first lord of the treasury, and the then and present lord chief justice, Ellenborough, to inquire into the truths of certain written declarations, communicated to his Majesty by his royal Highness the Prince of Wales, touching the conduct of her royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

“ That the said Commissioners, in pursuance of the said authority and direction, did enter into an examination of several witnesses, and that they delivered to his Majesty a report of such examination, and also of their judgment of the several parts alleged against her royal Highness ; which report, signed by the four Commissioners aforesaid, and dated on the 14th of July, 1806, was accompanied with copies of the declarations, examinations, depositions, and other documents on which it was founded,



“ That it has been stated to this house, in manner aforesaid, that the said written accusations against her royal Highness expressly asserted, ‘ That her royal Highness had been pregnant in the year 1802, in consequence of an illicit intercourse, and that she had in the same year been secretly delivered of a male child, which child had ever since that period been brought up by her royal Highness in her own house, and under her immediate inspection.

“ That the report further stated, that the Commissioners ‘ first examined on oath the principal informants, Sir John Douglas and Charlotte his wife, who both particularly swore, the former to his having known the fact of the pregnancy of her royal Highness, and the other to all the important particulars contained in a former declaration, and before referred to,’ and that report added, ‘ that the examinations are annexed to the report, and are circumstantial and positive.’

“ That, the Commissioners, after the above statements, proceeded in their said report to state to his Majesty that they thought it their duty to examine other witnesses as to the facts in question, and that they stated, as the result of such farther examination, ‘ their perfect conviction that there is no foundation whatever for believing that the child now with the Princess is the child of her royal Highness, or that she was delivered of any child in 1802, or that she was pregnant in that year,’ and that the Commissioners added ‘ That this was their clear and unanimous judgment, formed upon full deliberation and pronounced without hesitation, on the result of the whole inquiry.’

“ That the noble lords composing the Commission aforesaid had not, and could not, in that capacity, have any legal power to pronounce a judgment or decision in the case; that the matter of charge submitted to them as a subject of inquiry amounted to a charge of high treason, a crime known to the laws, and therefore liable only in a known Court of Justice; that if, as Justices of the Peace, (a character belonging to them as Privy Councillors,) they were competent to receive informations and take examinations regarding the conduct of her royal Highness, they had no legal power in that capacity, nor in any other

that could be given to them, to pronounce an acquittal or a condemnation upon the charge referred to them; for that, to admit their to have been competent to acquit, is to admit them competent to have found guilty, and this would be to admit their competence to have sent her Royal Highness to an ignominious death, in virtue of a decision founded on selected *ex parte* evidence taken before a secret tribunal.

“ That the whole report, as it relates to the judgment of the Commissioners, (if the making of it be not an unlawful act) is at least of no legal validity, and, in the eye of the law, leaves the question of the guilt or innocence of her royal Highness where the Commissioners first found it; that the depositions and examinations upon oath (supposing the Commissioners to have taken them in their capacity of Justices of the Peace) possess a legal character; but that no legal decision has yet been made upon any of the important facts stated in these depositions and examinations, and that it has not yet been legally decided that the fact positively sworn to, of her royal Highness having been delivered of a male child in the year 1802, is not true.

“ That in any claim to the succession to the Throne, which, by possibility, at least, may hereafter be set up, by any aspiring personage possessed of great power, the circumstantial and positive evidence of Sir John Douglas, and of Charlotte his wife, if again called for, would still retain all its legal character and weight, while it might happen, that the evidence on the other side might, from death or other causes, be found deficient; and that there can be no doubt that if it should hereafter be made to appear, that the facts sworn to by Lady Douglas are true, and if the identity of the male child so born should be proved, he would be the legal heir to the Throne, notwithstanding any assertions, or any proofs, relating to the alleged illicit intercourse of her royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

“ That therefore the honour of her royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the sacred right of the Princess Charlotte of Wales, the safety of the Throne, and the tranquillity of the country, do all unite, in a most imperious call on this house, to institute

now, while the witnesses on both sides are still living, and while all the charges are capable of being clearly established, or clearly disproved, an ample and impartial investigation of all the allegations, facts, and circumstances appertaining to this most important subject of inquiry.

“ 2d. Resolved, That an humble address be presented to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, requesting that his royal Highness will be graciously pleased to order, that a copy of a report made to his Majesty on the 14th day of July, 1806, by the then lord chancellor Erskine, Earl Spencer, lord Grenville, and lord chief justice Ellenborough, touching the conduct of her royal Highness the Princess of Wales, be laid before the house, together with the copies of the documents annexed to the said report.”

The reflections cast on the testimony of Sir J. Douglas, in the course of the parliamentary debates, occasioned him to remonstrate with lord Castlereagh and other members, on the terms with which lady Douglas's declaration and evidence in 1806, was mentioned. And he says, that what provoked him to this step was that lady Douglas and himself had actually been examined again by the Prince regent's ministers, on the very eve of the day when lord Castlereagh pronounced their condemnation. Now, he says, and with some reason, that the very same men, who in 1807 had pronounced them to be unworthy of all belief, thought fit to examine them again on Thursday the 4th March 1813, thereby giving them credit for integrity, and yet the next day they spoke with the utmost contumely of their evidence.

These reflections also produced the following notes to Mr. Whitbread and Lord Castlereagh :—

“ Major-General Sir John Douglas requests to know from  
“ Lord Castlereagh, as a man of honour, whether he, in his  
“ place, in the House of Commons, on Friday evening, declared  
“ his wife to be a perjured person, and upon what ground he  
“ founded his accusation ?”

The object of this note was to obtain from his lordship, out of the house, an avowal of the language he had used in his

place, as a member ; but which was disappointed by the following note from his lordship to Sir John, in answer :—

“ Lord Castlereagh deems it his duty to decline giving to Major-General Sir J. Douglas any explanation of proceedings in which he has felt himself obliged to concur, when acting by his Majesty’s command, in discharge of his functions as a Privy Councillor, or, in the explanation of them to the House of Commons.”

A similar note was sent by Sir John to Mr. Whitbread, with the same view, to which he returned the following answer :—

“ Major-General Sir John Douglas’s question to Mr. Whitbread is founded upon words attributed to him to have been spoken in his place in Parliament ; Mr. Whitbread is therefore under the necessity of declining all answer to that question.”

The Princess Charlotte being indisposed for some time after the fête at Carlton-house, her Royal Highness was necessarily obliged to defer her return to Windsor. In consequence of this, the Princess of Wales, on the 8th of February, addressed herself to Lord Liverpool, desiring that he would communicate to the Prince Regent her Royal Highness’s intention to visit the Princess Charlotte at Warwick-house, not anticipating the possibility of a prevention on the part of the Prince Regent, under the circumstance of the Princess Charlotte’s confinement from illness. Lord Liverpool replied that he was happy to announce the Princess Charlotte so much better, that her Royal Highness would be able to visit the Princess of Wales at Kensington Palace on the following Thursday, 11th February. On *that morning*, however, *at the moment (and not before)* of the Princess of Wales stepping into her carriage, she received information that the Princess Charlotte was refused coming.

Upon this, the Princess of Wales again addressed Lord Liverpool to know the reason, none having been assigned, for the Princess Charlotte’s being thus suddenly prohibited from giving the meeting to her royal mother, and when and how soon her Royal Highness might expect to see the Princess Charlotte.—To this inquiry the Princess of Wales received the following *extraordinary*, but not *over-courteous*, reply from Lord Liverpool ;

*Fife House, Feb. 14, 1813.*

“ Lord Liverpool has the honour to inform your Royal Highness, that in consequence of the publication in *The Morning Chronicle* of the 10th instant, of a letter addressed by your Royal Highness to the Prince Regent, his Royal Highness thought fit, *by the advice of his confidential servants*, to signify his commands that the intended visit of the Princess Charlotte to your Royal Highness on the following day, should not take place.

“ Lord Liverpool is not enabled to make any further communication to your Royal Highness on the subject of your Royal Highness’s note.”

To this letter the Princess of Wales commanded Lady Anne Hamilton, her lady in waiting, to reply as follows to Lord Liverpool:

*“ Montague-House, Blackheath, Feb. 15, 1813.*

“ Lady Anne Hamilton is commanded by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales to represent to Lord Liverpool, that the insidious insinuation, respecting the publication of the letter addressed by the Princess of Wales, on the 14th of January, to the Prince Regent, conveyed in his Lordship’s reply to her Royal Highness, is as void of foundation, and as false as all the former accusations of the traducers of her Royal Highness’s honour in the year 1806.

“ Lady Hamilton is further commanded to say, that dignified silence would have been the line of conduct the Princess would have preserved upon such insinuation (more than unbecoming Lord Liverpool), did not the effect arising from it operate to deprive her Royal Highness of the sole real happiness she can possess in this world—that of seeing her only child. And the confidential servants of the Prince Regent ought to feel ashamed of their conduct towards the Princess in avowing to her Royal Highness their advice to the Prince Regent, that upon unauthorized and unfounded suppositions a mother and daughter should be prevented from meeting—a prohibition positively against the law of nature—Lady Anne Hamilton is commanded



further to desire Lord Liverpool, to lay this paper before the Prince Regent, that his Royal Highness may be aware into what error his confidential servants are leading him, and will involve him, by counselling and signifying such commands."

Here ended the correspondence.

The cabinet meetings and proceedings succeeded almost immediately ; but touching the nature, the form, and the object of those proceedings, the Princess of Wales being left to conjecture, her Royal Highness, on the 27th February, addressed the subjoined letter to the Earl of Harrowby :—

*Copy of a Letter addressed by the Princess of Wales to the Earl of Harrowby.*

Feb. 27, 1813.

" The Princess of Wales has received reports from various quarters of certain proceedings lately held by his Majesty's Privy Counsel, respecting her Royal Highness ; and the Princess has felt persuaded that these reports must be unfounded, because she could not believe it possible that any resolution should be taken by that most honourable body in any respect affecting her Royal Highness, upon statements which she has had no opportunity of *answering, explaining, or even seeing.*

" The Princess still trusts, that there is no truth in these rumours ; but she feels it due to herself to lose no time in protesting against any resolution affecting her Royal Highness which may be so adopted.

" The noble and right honourable persons who are said to have been selected for these proceedings, are too just to decide any thing touching her Royal Highness, without affording her an opportunity of laying her case before them. The Princess has not had any power to choose the Judges before whom any inquiry may be carried on ; but she is perfectly willing to have her whole conduct inquired into by any persons who may be selected by her accusers. The Princess only demands that she may be heard in defence or in explanation of her conduct, if it is attacked ; and that she should either be treated as innocent, or proved to be guilty."



Lord Harrowby replied to the effect, that a copy of the minister's report, laid before the Prince Regent, had been transmitted that same evening to the Princess of Wales, by the Viscount Sidmouth.

The following is the Report to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to which the Princess of Wales also alluded in her letter to the speaker of the House of Commons, which he read on the evening of the second of March.

### REPORT, &c.

TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT.

The following Members of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, viz.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury,  
 The Right Hon. the Lord High Chancellor,  
 His Grace the Archbishop of York,  
 His Grace the Lord Primate of Ireland,  
 The Lord President of the Council,  
 The Lord Privy Seal,  
 The Earl of Buckinghamshire,  
 The Earl Bathurst,  
 The Earl of Liverpool,  
 The Earl of Mulgrave,  
 The Viscount Melville,  
 The Viscount Sidmouth,  
 The Viscount Castlereagh,  
 The Right Hon. the Lord Bishop of London,  
 The Right Hon. Lord Ellenborough, Lord Chief-Justice of the Court of King's Bench,  
 The Right Hon. the Speaker of the House of Commons,  
 The Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer,  
 The Right Hon. the Chancellor of the Duchy,  
 His Honour the Master of the Rolls,  
 The Right Hon. the Lord Chief-Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, \*

\* The Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas was prevented by indisposition from attending, during any part of these proceedings.

The Right Hon. the Lord Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer,

The Right Hon. the Judge of the High Court of Admiralty,

The Right Hon. the Dean of the Arches,

Having been summoned by command of your Royal Highness, on the 19th of February, to meet at the office of Viscount Sidmouth, Secretary of State for the Home Department, a communication was made by his lordship to the lords then present, in the following terms :

“ MY LORDS—I have it in command from his Royal Highness the Prince Regent to acquaint your lordships, that a copy of a letter from the Princess of Wales to the Prince Regent having appeared in a public paper, which letter refers to the proceedings that took place in an Inquiry instituted by command of his Majesty, in the year 1806, and contains, among other matters, certain animadversions upon the manner in which the Prince Regent has exercised his undoubted right of regulating the conduct and education of his daughter the Princess Charlotte; and his Royal Highness having taken into his consideration the said letter so published, and adverting to the directions heretofore given by his Majesty, that the documents relating to the said Inquiry should be sealed up, and deposited in the office of his Majesty’s Principal Secretary of State, in order that his Majesty’s government should possess the means of resorting to them if necessary; his Royal Highness has been pleased to direct, that the said letter of the Princess of Wales, and the whole of the said documents, together with the copies of other letters and papers, of which a schedule is annexed, should be referred to your lordships, being members of his Majesty’s Most Honourable Privy Council, for your consideration; and that you should report to his Royal Highness your opinion, whether, under all the circumstances of the case, it be fit and proper that the intercourse between the Princess of Wales and her daughter, the Princess Charlotte, should continue to be subject to regulations and restrictions.”

Their lordships adjourned their meetings to Tuesday the 23d February; and the intermediate days having been employed in

perusing the documents referred to them, by command of your Royal Highness, they proceeded on that and the following day to the further consideration of the said documents, and have agreed to report to your Royal Highness as follows :

In obedience to the commands of your Royal Highness, we have taken into our most serious consideration the letter from her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales to your Royal Highness, which has appeared in the public papers, and has been referred to us by your Royal Highness ; in which letter the Princess of Wales, amongst other matters, complains that the intercourse between her Royal Highness and her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte, has been subjected to certain restrictions.

We have also taken into our most serious consideration, together with the other papers referred to us by your Royal Highness, all the documents relative to the Inquiry instituted in 1806, by command of his Majesty, into the truth of certain representations respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, which appear to have been pressed upon the attention of your Royal Highness, in consequence of the advice of Lord Thurlow, and upon grounds of public duty, by whom they were transmitted to his Majesty's consideration. And your Royal Highness having been graciously pleased to command us to report our opinions to your Royal Highness, whether, under all the circumstances of the case, it be fit and proper, that the intercourse between the Princess of Wales and her daughter the Princess Charlotte, should continue to be subject to regulation and restraint.

We beg leave humbly to report to your Royal Highness, that after a full examination of all the documents before us, we are of opinion, that, under all the circumstances of the case, it is highly fit and proper, with a view to the welfare of her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte, in which are equally involved the happiness of your Royal Highness in your parental and royal character, and the most important interests of the state, that the intercourse between her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte, should continue to be subject to regulation and restraint.

We humbly trust that we may be permitted, without being thought to exceed the limits of the duty imposed on us, respectfully to express the just sense we entertain of the motives by which your royal highness has been actuated in the postponement of the confirmation of her royal highness the Princess Charlotte, as it appears, by a statement under the hand of her Majesty the Queen, that your royal highness has conformed, in this respect, to the declared will of his Majesty; who had been pleased to direct, that such ceremony should not take place till her royal highness should have completed her eighteenth year.

We also humbly trust, that we may be further permitted to notice some expressions in the letter of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, which may possibly be construed as implying a charge of too serious a nature to be passed over without observation. We refer to the words—"suborned traducers." As this expression, from the manner in which it is introduced, may, perhaps, be liable to misconstruction (however impossible it may be to suppose that it can have been so intended), to have reference to some part of the conduct of your Royal Highness, we feel it our bounden duty not to omit this opportunity of declaring, that the documents laid before us, afford the most ample proof that there is not the slightest foundation for such an aspersion.

(Signed by the Privy Councillors as above).

It appears that Sir John or Lady Douglas, who makes so conspicuous a figure in the present Inquiry, was, in all probability, the first cause of its being instituted; and, as a knowledge of what led to the Investigation is necessary to form an opinion of those who are the accusers of the Princess, we extract the following article from a respectable daily paper, which appears at once to clear up the whole affair.

In the beginning of November 1805, his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex made known to the Prince, that Sir John Douglas had communicated to him some circumstances in the conduct of the Princess of Wales, that it was of the utmost consequence to the honour of his Royal Highness, and to the security of the royal succession, should be made known to him;

and that Sir John said, he and his Lady were ready to give a full disclosure if called upon. He added, that his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent had been made partly acquainted with the matter a twelvemonth before.

In consequence of this, the Prince called on the Duke of Kent, to say what had been communicated to him, and why he had for a whole year kept from his knowledge a matter so interesting to the honour of the family.

The Duke of Kent, in his written declaration, stated, that about the end of 1804, he had received a note from the Princess of Wales, stating that she had got into an unpleasant altercation with Sir John and Lady Douglas, about an anonymous letter, and a filthy drawing, which they imputed to her Royal Highness, and about which they were making a noise. She requested the Duke of Kent to interfere, and prevent its going further. His Royal Highness applied to Sir Sidney Smith, and through him had an interview with Sir John Douglas; who was greatly enraged, and who seemed convinced that both the anonymous letters and the loose drawing were by the hand of the Princess, and that the design was to provoke Sir John Douglas to a duel with his friend Sir Sidney Smith, by the gross insinuation flung out respecting the latter and Lady Douglas. The Duke of Kent, however, succeeded in prevailing on Sir John Douglas to abstain from his purpose of commencing a prosecution, or of stirring further in the business, as he was satisfied in his mind of the falsehood of the insinuation, and could not be sure that the fabrications were not some gossiping story, in which the Princess had no hand. Sir John, however, was in a great rage, spoke with great indignation of the conduct of the Princess, and promised only that he would for the present abstain from further investigation, but would not give him a promise of preserving silence if he should be further annoyed. The Duke of Kent concluded with stating, that nothing was communicated to him beyond this fracas, and that having succeeded in stopping it, he did not think it fit to trouble his Royal Highness with a gossiping story that might be entirely founded on the misapprehension of the offended parties.

Sir John and Lady Douglas then made a formal declaration of the whole story, as contained in their subsequent affidavits, before the Duke of York, on the 3d December 1803.

This declaration was submitted by the Prince to the late Lord Thurlow, who said that his Royal Highness had no alternative—it was his duty to submit it to the King, as the royal succession might be affected if the allegations were true. In the mean time it was resolved to make further inquiry, and Mr. Lowten, of the Temple, was directed to take steps accordingly.

The consequence was, that William and Sarah Lampert (servants to Sir John Douglas), William Cole, Robert and Sarah Bidgood, and Frances Lloyd made declarations, the whole of which, together with that of Sir John and Lady Douglas, were submitted to his Majesty, who thereupon issued the warrant, dated the 29th May 1806, directing Lord Erskine, Lord Grenville, Earl Spencer, and Lord Ellenborough, as our readers have seen, to inquire into the truth of the allegations, and to report to him thereon.

#### MOTION *for the PROSECUTION* of LADY DOUGLAS.

On Monday evening, March 16, Mr. Whitbread being in his place in the House of Commons, and having inquired if Lord Castlereagh would be there also, rose and said, “I am desirous to put one or two questions to the noble lord opposite, on a subject which, I had hoped, the discussions which took place in this house on the week before last, had set for ever at rest. But the tumult and indignation excited by things recently published—the disgust created by disclosures made in two newspapers under the influence of the government—the rumours and communications respecting me and the noble lord, which have come forth, leave no ground for the supposition that matters can rest where they now are, but, on the contrary, shew that they must come to a crisis. Under these circumstances, I rise to ask the noble lord whether the Prince Regent, under advice, has given any notice to the law officers of the crown to prosecute Lady Douglas for perjury. I also desire the



noble lord to inform me if he knows, or if he does not know, I require the information from any other honourable member who may be able to supply me with it:—I desire to know if Lady Douglas has, between the 12th of February and the 5th of March, been examined by the Solicitor of the Treasury, and before a Magistrate, in the presence of Sir John Douglas. I desire to know from the noble lord, or from any other gentleman who may know the fact, whether or not these examinations have been continued, and are still going on? And I put these questions with the view, if I am answered by the noble lord, or by others, of giving notice of the proceedings which I may deem it right to institute on the subject.”

Lord Castlereagh said, “I am sure the house would feel that I was guilty of a dereliction of my duty, were I to answer to the honourable gentleman, unless I knew the nature of the proceedings which it may be his intention to pursue.”

Mr. Whitbread—“I have no objection to satisfy the noble lord upon this point. I think the Princess of Wales must either be brought to trial, or Lady Douglas be prosecuted for perjury. The Princess of Wales came to this house, and threw herself on the wisdom of parliament; and notwithstanding the means taken to prevent it, the whole discussion that ensued upon that occasion has gone forth and is known to the world. The declaration of her innocence by the noble lord is known. Sir John Douglas, in consequence of this, waited upon me, and upon the noble lord, and his application and my answer (not from me, for I furnished no copy of it to any one,) have been published in the public papers. When he called upon me, Sir John Douglas told me that he conceived he and Lady Douglas were treated with the greatest hardship, as Lady Douglas had been examined as a witness on the very eve of the day in which the noble lord had declared her to be a perjured and degraded woman. Sir John Douglas also told me of the depositions before the magistrate to which I have alluded; and that himself and Lady Douglas still persisted in the truth of their statements respecting the Princess of Wales. He also informed me that he meant to approach this house; upon which I observed, that

I was sure no member of parliament would refuse to present his petition. As to the second question, whether the Prince Regent, under advice, has instructed the law officers of the crown to prosecute Lady Douglas for perjury; I am sure the Princess of Wales must be considered to be innocent by all the world, and by the noble lord and the Prince Regent; but if not, I am sure that her guilt ought not to be made apparent through newspapers, but by a message from the throne to parliament. This, under any circumstances, would be incumbent on ministers, but it would be peculiarly incumbent on them, placed as the Prince Regent was in being Regent, if guilt can be imputed, to come with the charge directly to the parliament. If I find that they do not prosecute Lady Douglas for perjury, I shall deem it my duty to move, "That an humble address be presented to the Prince Regent, to give instructions to his law officers to found that proceeding on such part of her testimony, in 1806, as may appear justly liable to that accusation."

Lord Castlereagh acknowledged that the honourable gentleman had candidly stated his opinions, and added, "This statement has confirmed me in the determination, that it is my duty not to answer his questions, nor to afford any further information on the topics he has urged, until they are regularly brought under the consideration of the house."

Mr. Whitbread said, "The noble lord has satisfied himself that he has done his duty in refusing to answer me. I addressed my questions to other gentlemen, if there were any present capable of giving me information. The noble lord has declined answering me. I now repeat my questions, and put them to others. I ask, first, if the Prince Regent has, under advice, given instructions to the law-officers to prosecute Lady Douglas for perjury? I ask, secondly, if Lady Douglas has been examined by the Solicitor of the Treasury, and a magistrate, from the 12th of February to the 5th of March, that very day on which the noble lord, in his place, declared her to be a perjured and degraded woman? And I ask, thirdly, if not of the noble lord, (as I am not sure he possesses a competent knowledge on that point, Sir John Douglas having informed me

he stated to him he was not acquainted with it), of others, to whom I put it, whether, since the 5th of March, examinations into old matter, or new proof of criminality, have, or have not been instituted? If I receive no answer from the noble lord, who thinks it his duty to deny me, or from any other honourable person, I will content myself with doing my duty, and will, on Wednesday next, execute my purpose of moving for an address, to the effect I have already stated, to the Prince Regent. I am certain that the public mind cannot bear to be contaminated as it has been, or endure the ferment that is excited. I am certain that it will demand justice on the Princess of Wales, if guilty, or upon those who have accused her, if she be innocent."

Lord Castlereagh said, "I see no reason, nor will any reason, nor will any remarks of the honourable gentleman, force me to depart from the course I have laid down for my conduct, which I would not be warranted in doing by any public reports adduced by the honourable gentleman. With respect, however, to disclosures, and the injury done to public feelings, the honourable gentleman will permit me to say, that the responsibility of all rests upon those who first originated the production of these documents.—(*Hear, Hear!*)—The honourable gentleman himself has deeply to answer for these things which he thus condemns. He was the first to read and publish garbled extracts and statements of documents which ought not to have been read at all—but which being read, and making a partial impression on the public, the whole injury resulting from them, and other productions consequent upon them, is to be attributed to the original authors of any disclosures."

Mr. Whitbread said (with warmth), "I read the minute of the cabinet, the Portland cabinet, the minute to which the name of the noble lord is affixed—I read it entirely, and garbled no part—I omitted no word in it—I read it because I thought it necessary; neither was it a secret document; it was printed by Mr. Perceval, and was in the possession of hundreds; I garbled not; but I recorded the verdict of acquittal which had been given. And will the noble lord draw any parallel between the publication of such documents as those to which I have

alluded, in the public newspapers, and the reading, by a member of this house in his place, of a declaration of innocence? These documents come forth to the country through the medium of two papers, known to be well affected towards the existing administration: they are published in the Morning Herald and in the Morning Post upon the same day, with comments in the latter, as if the Princess of Wales was brought before the tribunal of the editor; the other is the property of a person who has lately received honours from the Prince Regent, and is known to hold frequent intercourse with Carlton House. But the noble lord now charges me with reading the cabinet minute—he made no complaint at the time I read it—(Lord Castlereagh said across the table “I did”). Did you? I beg your pardon—I do not recollect it—it had escaped me. But be that as it may, there is a main difference between this recital of a declaration of innocence, and such publications as those, which, after acquittal, load the innocent with ignominy. I am not the adviser of the publication of the Princess of Wales’s letter, or of any of the subsequent publications, but I know, if a person has no other resource from oppression, it is no misdemeanour to resort to this; I know that it was the last resource of that oppressed person, who is so till she is convicted of being guilty. Her Royal Highness has declared that she was not aware of this publication. All that I know is, that this illustrious person comes to parliament, and calls upon it to pronounce her guilty, or treat her as innocent. I know that there is no message sent to parliament from authority, which would and ought to have been done if guilt could be imputed”—

Lord Castlereagh said, “Now I know the honourable gentleman’s view of the matter, I am the more confirmed in the propriety of declining to reply to his questions. I did charge him (I do not mean the word in an offensive sense), I did complain at the time he read the minute, not that he garbled that document, but that the reading of that document itself, unconnected with others, conveyed a garbled statement, in the constitutional sense, of the whole course of the proceedings. I complained of his reading the minute of the Duke of Portland’s cabinet, without also taking into view antecedent proceedings, as calculated

to make on the public mind an impression not proper, if the documents were considered altogether. That minute is only intelligible with a reference to the minute of Lord Grenville's cabinet. The honourable gentleman is not correct in thinking that any state document was printed by Mr. Perceval—the Book contained only the evidence and strictures upon it, and the defence of the accused. It contained no act of state, and the honourable gentleman is the first on whose head the responsibility rests, of having given publicity to any act of the government in this affair.”

Mr. Whitbread.—“On my head be it. On my head be it that I made the first attempt to vindicate the Princess of Wales. On my head be the responsibility for all I have done—on the head of others the responsibility for all they have done; and on the head of the noble lord the responsibility for refusing to answer the questions I have put to him. I assure the noble lord I will not take offence at any of his expressions, for I am sure they are not meant personally, however warmly we may feel interested in arguing this case. But I will ask him, after the declaration made of the innocence of the Princess of Wales by a cabinet minister—(we believe Mr. Perceval)—after what was stated the other night by the Attorney General, in his place—after reading the minute of acquittal, are those words to be retracted, “I have no intention of imputing criminality to the Princess of Wales.” The whole effect of what has since passed is to impute criminality. The noble lord will, however, give no information. I trust he will, on Wednesday, be prepared so to do: and in the mean time I presume, from his silence, that no directions have been given for the prosecution of Lady Douglas.”

Lord Castlereagh said, “I never made any declaration either of guilt or innocence, as I did not consider it to be within our competent jurisdiction. I distinctly stated that the evidence submitted to the Portland cabinet, which went to criminate her Royal Highness, was either contradicted, or not entitled to credence. I did not attempt to pronounce on guilt or innocence, as this house is not a competent tribunal.”

Mr. Whitbread replied, and after some few observations, Lord



Milton rose to propose, as an amendment, that the house should adjourn, which not being seconded the original motion was carried.

While the general expectation was directed towards Mr. Whitbread's motion, anxious to know its fate in proportion as the public wished for justice to be done to the evidence of Sir John and Lady Douglas, it was found out, during the interval of his giving notice, "That the prosecution against the Douglasses would not hold in law, as they had not sworn in open court, or after process joined," and hence the honourable mover was obliged to alter his motion, and to propose an address to his Royal Highness, "to order the proper measures to be taken for discovering and bringing to justice the persons concerned in giving publicity to the nauseous depositions."

Upon this newly-discovered ground, when the house opened, on Wednesday, March 17, Mr. Whitbread brought in a petition from Sir John and Lady Douglas, which was read by the clerk nearly in the following terms:—

"That your petitioners are advised, that the depositions which they made on oath before the Commissioners, in June, 1806, were not made before such a tribunal as would subject your petitioners, in case their depositions were false, to prosecution and punishment for perjury. That your petitioners feeling the utmost confidence in their own innocence, and the truth of their depositions so delivered as aforesaid, before the said Commissioners, are perfectly ready and willing, and hereby offer to swear the said depositions before any competent tribunal, so as to render themselves liable to such prosecution and punishment for perjury, if their said depositions should be proved to be false. And your petitioners, therefore, most humbly pray your honourable house, that they may be sworn before a competent tribunal for the purposes aforesaid, as your petitioners do not wish to shelter themselves under any legal forms against the consequences of giving the said depositions.

"And your petitioners shall ever pray, &c."

The speech which Mr. Whitbread made on this occasion



entered so fully into the history of the whole transaction between the Princess and her enemies, that there are very few points indeed which this master-piece of eloquence did not embrace. As a mediator between the Royal parties, he acknowledged that a noble friend of her Royal Highness had, on a former night, when the Princess was declared innocent, done him the honour of asking his advice, and he, on that occasion, sketched out a letter of dignified submission from her to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and sent it to the Princess. She did him the honour of taking a copy of it in her own hand, with the intention of sending it to the Prince; but this healing and desirable step was prevented, by her receiving information, that Sir John and Lady Douglas were again under examination, and that too with the sanction of the Lord Chancellor. The letter he would read, if the house would indulge him. The following is a correct copy :

“ SIR,

“ I once more approach your Royal Highness, and can venture to assure you, Sir, that if you will deign to read my letter, you will not be dissatisfied with its contents.

“ The report made by certain members of his Majesty’s privy council, was communicated to me by Lord Sidmouth, and its contents appeared to those, upon whose advice I rely, to be such as to require on my part a public assertion of my innocence, and a demand of investigation. It cannot be unknown to your royal Highness that I addressed a letter to the lord chancellor, and a duplicate of that letter to the speaker of the house of commons, for the purpose of its being communicated to the two houses of Parliament.

“ The lord chancellor twice returned my letter, and did not communicate its contents to the house of lords.

“ The speaker of the house of commons thought it his duty to announce the receipt of my letter, and it was read from the chair. To my inexpressible gratification I have been informed, that, although no proceeding was instituted according to my request, certain discussions which took place in that honourable house have resulted in the complete, and unequivocal, and uni-

versal acknowledgment of my entire innocence, to the satisfaction of the world.

“ Allow me, Sir, to say to your royal Highness, that I address you now relieved from a load of distress which has pressed upon me for many years.

“ I was always conscious that I was free from reproach. I am now known to be so, and worthy to bear the exalted title of Princess of Wales.

“ On the subject of the confirmation of the Princess Charlotte, I bow, as becomes me, and with implicit deference to the opinion expressed by his Majesty, now that I have been made acquainted with it. His Majesty’s decision I must always regard as sacred.

“ To such restrictions as your royal Highness shall think proper to impose upon the intercourse between the Princess Charlotte and myself, as arising out of the acknowledged exercise of your parental and royal authority, I submit without observation; but I throw myself upon the compassion of your royal Highness, not to abridge more than may be necessary my greatest, indeed, my only pleasure.

“ Your royal Highness may be assured, that, if the selection of society for the Princess Charlotte, when on her visits to me, were left to my discretion, it would be, as it always has been, unexceptionable for rank and character. If your royal Highness would condescend, Sir, to name the society yourself, your injunctions should be strictly adhered to.

“ I will not detain your royal Highness—I throw myself again on your royal justice and compassion, and I subscribe myself, with perfect sincerity, and in the happy feelings of justified innocence, your royal Highness’s, &c. &c. &c.

Mr Tierney, speaking of Lord Castlereagh, said, he could discern by no gesture or look of the noble lord, whether they were to remain in that situation or not. But waving this question, he wished to know by what authority Mr. (Justice) Cogan should undertake to meddle with matters of state, by calling, as he had done, for evidence on the subject! People talked of conspiracies, of a conspiracy between the Douglas’s;

but there might be conspiracy and collusion elsewhere: As an amendment to Mr. Whitbread's motion, Mr. Tierney then moved, That the printer and publisher of the Morning Herald, (and he afterwards added the Morning Post) should be called to the bar of the house; which was negatived. At length Mr. Whitbread agreed to wave his motion, which, as well as Mr. Tierney's amendment, was negatived without a division.

On a review of the whole of these transactions, a multiplicity of reflections offer themselves; the first is, that foul perjury and insatiable malice somewhere exist.—The latter, it seems, neither time nor submission is able to soothe. Blind to consequences, nothing is able to divert the enemies of the Princess from the prosecution of their object; not by fair and open means, but by secret machinations, which shun the light, and which, when detected, are not diverted, and when exposed, are not abashed. Unable to find valid or voluntary evidence, this, it would appear, is still sought after amongst persons whose names would be almost a profanation to attach to that of the Princess's; and from persons whose stations in life expose them to more than a chance of bartering their integrity for a reward, and the advantage of gratifying their superiors! As long, therefore, as this thirst for the life-blood of the fair fame and reputation of her royal highness continues, the country, and the succession, are undoubtedly in danger. Certainly it is not possible that this royal stranger should have been made, from the very first, the stepping-stone of ambition, or of some more ignoble passion! However, it is remarkable that the first letter of her Royal Consort, announcing his determination as to a separation, was written within thirteen months after the marriage took place! and what is still equally singular is, “the Prince's letter is dated on the very day twelvemonth that the parliament were engaged in discussing his Majesty's gracious message relative to the provision to be made for the “august spouse” of his son, in consequence of his recent nuptials, and this at the moment when it was resolved to exclude her from the enjoyment of the splendour due to her rank, if not to her virtues.

It has been argued that the whole matter ought to have remained in obscurity, which, in other words, is only saying, that injured innocence, for some unguarded levity, is to continue, from year to year, to suffer without a murmur; to remain the victim and prey of unutterable anguish, without unbosoming itself to any human being! And, as if this misfortune and punishment were not sufficiently severe, it was expected that the same injured person should be held up by the hireling prints in the pay of her enemies as one who might expect a legal separation from her husband, *who might lose his wife, marry again, and have a son*. This, and the degrading steps with which such intentions were to have been connected, were, no doubt, the first motives that induced the sufferer to break her long silence, and at once appeal to the Parliament and the Prince. It was this provocation that urged the demand, as it were, to be *proved*, and not presumed, *guilty*, or otherwise to be declared *innocent*, not in secret, but according to the forms of law; for it is guilt only that seeks concealment.

As to the pretended indelicacy of inquiring into the real situation of the party aggrieved, under the pretext that it is prying into family concerns, it is so weak that it is astonishing it should ever have been resorted to. This is belied by that interest taken by almost every individual in the empire; and by that honourable and general feeling which, like an electric shock, has agitated every bosom susceptible of a generous impulse. In fine, the notice of the whole, it must be acknowledged, has been forced upon the public by some of the most striking circumstances that ever occurred in the history of this or any other nation; nor is there any kind of argument or opinion now wanting to prove the interest which all ranks of people feel on this occasion. This is apparent from the concern, and even the anxiety, which is manifested respecting every circumstance relative to the royal stranger and her illustrious daughter, the rightful successor to the throne of these realms, as well as from the contempt and detestation with which the public on all occasions speak of their enemies.

STATEMENT of *Particulars respecting the CHILD now under the protection of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.*

WITHOUT dwelling on all the trivial circumstances connected with the history of the mother of this child, which are scattered through the documents, we have endeavoured only to furnish our readers with a connected view of the leading circumstances belonging to the parties concerned.

Austin, the real father of the child, was a porter, in 1798, to Mr. Young, a broker in Lombard-court, Seven Dials. Some time after this, Mrs. Austin, finding that her husband's earnings scarcely procured a sufficiency for himself, determined to go to service, and engaged in this capacity with Mr. Cooper, a coal merchant of Villiers-street, in the Strand, leaving a child, which was born before she came to town, under the care of a relation. With Mr. Villiers she remained about a year, during which time her husband had been so much afflicted with the rheumatism that he left off being a porter, &c. and became a footman to the Duchess of Cumberland. Mrs. Austin, too, acted as nurse in several families, and mostly lived separately from her husband; however, on the 12th of March, 1800, she lay-in with another son, at Brownlow-street Hospital. In the August following, taking care of a house for Mr. Woodford, at Deptford, who was her husband's uncle, she staid there till Austin, probably to be near his wife, got a place as a labourer in his Majesty's Dock-yard, at 12s. per week, but at the general peace in 1802, he was discharged with many more. Being afterwards in distress, it is said, he proposed to his wife, that she and the children should apply to the parish, which she refusing to do, he left her. He, however, returned home in a short time, when Mrs. Austin being pregnant again, and within two months of her time, she endeavoured to get another recommendation to Brownlow-street Hospital. This circumstance it was that made her acquainted with the house of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; for, being intimate with a poor woman of the name of *Lasley*, who used to get the broken victuals from Montague House, she spoke to her to make interest with some of the ladies to get her a letter of admittance into some lying-in hospital. Mrs. Austin and she went together for this purpose; the former waiting upon the heath, while the latter went into the house. Here she did not succeed after all, but got a letter for Brownlow-street Hospital, from Mr. Hoare, the banker in Fleet-street, and on Sunday, July 11, 1802, was delivered of a son, baptized on the 15th of the same month, and named William.

After Mrs. Austin came home, having heard that the Princess of Wales procured employment in the Dock-yard for a number of applicants, her husband wrote a petition, which she carried, and went with the child William in her arms, on Saturday, October 23d, to Montague House. At the door, it seems she met with Stikeman, who said her child was a fine child, and that if it had been about a fortnight old he could have got it taken care of for her. He then took it into the house, where keeping it half an hour, Mrs. Austin was dreadfully alarmed; Stikeman nevertheless brought it out again,



and saying it had been a very good boy, took a shilling back which he had given her, and made it up half-a-guinea, which he then gave her as a present from the ladies. Here she also got some broken victuals, and was told to be sure to bring the child again by eleven o'clock on the following Monday morning. During this interval her husband had packed up his clothes and left her other child with a woman in the house: he had got a place without her knowledge at a currier's, in Oxford-road. When Mrs. Austin went to Montague House on the Monday appointed, her husband was asked after, and Mr. Stikeman told her, that if she did not bring him with her he would call on them at Deptford, where they then resided at No. 7, in the New Row. Stikeman called, and after making many particular inquiries said, he would do what he could by way of getting the child taken care of. On the 6th of November she again visited Montague House with the child, and saw the Princess after waiting two hours. Here, after some conversation, she was asked by one of the ladies if she could make up her mind to part with the child, who would be treated like a young Prince. Mrs. Austin said, she would rather part with it to such a lady as the Princess, than keep it to want. She then received a pound note, and was ordered to begin weaning the child that night. This, however, and the final parting with the infant, seems to have cost Mrs. Austin many bitter pangs; because it appears, that though she was told she might come and see it, she met with several disappointments! And though Mrs. Austin had made a request, through Mr. Stikeman, to be employed as nurse to the child, it could not be granted; but by his recommendation she got a place in this capacity at Mrs. Garrard's, in Panton-street, and as her husband was again out of employ Mr. Stikeman engaged him as an errand man at his own house in Pimlico.

Mrs. Austin next became a servant at a private house near Thames-street, and at length returning to her husband at Pimlico, was, on the 19th of April, 1805, a third time admitted into Brownlow-street Hospital, and soon after delivered of another son, named Job. In East-lane, Pimlico, Mrs. Austin remained about three years. During the time she lived at Pimlico, in her occasional visits to Blackheath, she was always admitted to see her son William, who had a regular nurse provided for him within a few days after she first left him. Besides this, she had the additional satisfaction of knowing that when about nine years of age, after being placed at a day school on Blackheath, he was transferred to a boarding school at Greenwich, kept by Dr. Burney, but from this he has been removed to another on Blackheath, where he still remains. Mrs. Austin now goes regularly once a quarter to see her son, and to receive some allowance for another child at home; her husband has a constant place as a *locker* in the London Docks; when ill he receives no pay.—Young Austin, it is said, very strongly resembles his mother in his features, complexion, &c.

Such are the outlines of the singular and eventful particulars, which may, in a great measure, be said to have been transacted between a Princess and the innocent child of a porter!



# DELICATE INVESTIGATION.

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## COPY OF HIS MAJESTY'S COMMISSION.

“ GEORGE R.

“ WHEREAS our right trusty and well beloved Councillor, Thomas Lord Erskine, our Chancellor, has this day laid before us an Abstract of certain written declarations touching the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, we do hereby authorise, empower, and direct the said Thomas Lord Erskine, our Chancellor, our right trusty and well beloved Cousin and Councillor George John Earl Spencer, one of our principal Secretaries of State, our right trusty and well beloved Councillor W. Windham, Lord Grenville, First Commissioner of our Treasury, and our right trusty and well beloved Councillor Edward Lord Ellenborough, our Chief Justice, to hold pleas before ourself, to inquire into the truth of the same, and to examine, upon oath, such persons as they shall see fit touching and concerning the same, and to report to us the result of such examination.

“ Given at our Castle of Windsor, on 29th May, in the 46th year of our Reign. “ G. R.”

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## COPY OF THE DEPOSITION OF CHARLOTTE LADY DOUGLAS.

“ I THINK I first became acquainted with the Princess of Wales in 1801. Sir John Douglas had a house at

Blackheath. One day, in November, 1801, the snow was lying on the ground. The Princess and a Lady who, I believe, was Miss Heyman, came on foot, and walked several times before the door. Lady Stewart was with me, and said, she thought that the Princess wanted something, and that I ought to go to her. I went to her. She said, she did not want any thing but she would walk in; that I had a very pretty little girl. She came in and staid some time. About a fortnight after Sir J. Douglas and I received an invitation to go to Montague House, after that I was very frequently at Montague House, and dined there. The Princess dined frequently with us.—About May or June, 1802, the Princess first talked to me about her own conduct. Sir S. Smith, who had been Sir John's friend for more than 20 years, came to England about November, 1801, and came to live in our house. I understood the Princess knew Sir Sydney Smith before she was Princess of Wales.

“ The Princess saw Sir S. Smith as frequently as ourselves. We were usually kept at Montague-house later than the rest of the party, often till three or four in the morning. I never observed any impropriety of conduct between Sir S. Smith and the Princess. I made the Princess a visit at Montague-house, in March, 1802, for about a fortnight. She desired me to come there, because Miss Garth was ill. In May or June following, the Princess came to my house alone—she said she came to tell me something that had happened to her, and desired me to guess—I guessed several things; and at last I said I could not guess any thing more. She then said she was pregnant, and that the child had come to life.

“ I don't know whether she said on that day, or a few days before, that she was at breakfast at Lady Willoughby's, that the milk flowed up to her breast and came through her gown; that she threw a napkin over herself and went with Lady Willoughby into her room, and adjusted herself to prevent its being observed. She never told me who was the father of the child. She said she hoped it would be a boy. She said that if it

was discovered she would give the Prince of Wales the credit of being the father, for she had slept two nights at Carlton-house within the year. I said that I should go abroad to my mother. The Princess said she should manage it very well, and if things came to the worst, she should give the Prince the credit of it. While I was at Montague-house, in March, I was with child, and one day I said I was very sick, and the Princess desired Mrs. Saunders to get me a saline draught. She then said that she was very sick herself, and that she would take a saline draught too. I observed, that she could not want one, and I looked at her. The Princess said, yes, I do. What do you look at me for with your wicked eyes? you are always finding me out. Mrs. Saunders looked very much distressed; she gave us a saline draught each.

“ This was the first time I had any suspicion of her being with child. The Princess never said who was the father. When she first told me she was with child I rather suspected that Sir S. Smith was the father, but only because the Princess was very partial to him. I never knew he was with her alone. We had constant intercourse with the Princess, from the time when I was at Montague-house, till the end of October. After she had first communicated to me that she was with child, she frequently spoke upon the subject. She was bled twice during the time. She recommended me to bleed too, and said that it made you have a better time. Mr. Edmeads bled her; she said, one of the days that Mr. Edmeads bled her, that she had a violent heat in her blood, and that Edmeads should bleed her.

I told the Princess that I was very anxious how she would manage to be brought to bed without its being known; that I hoped she had a safe person. She said, yes: she should have a person from abroad; that she had a great horror of having any men about her upon such an occasion—she said, I am confident in my own plans, and I wish you would not speak to me on that subject again. She said, I shall tell every thing to

Saunders. I think this was on the day on which she told me of what had happened at Lady Willoughby's. Saunders was a very good woman, and might be trusted, and that she must be with her at the labour; that she would send Miss Garth to Brunswick, and Miss Milfield was too young to be trusted, and must be sent out of the way. I was brought to bed on the 23d July, 1802. The Princess insisted on being present. I determined that she should not, but I meant to avoid it without offending her. On the day on which I was brought to bed, she came to my house and insisted on coming in.— Dr. Mackie, who attended me, locked the door on the opposite side of the —, but there was another door on the opposite side of the room, which was not locked, and she came in at that door, and was present during the time of the labour, and took the child as soon as it was born, and said she was very glad she had seen the whole of it. The Princess's pregnancy appeared to me to be very visible. She wore a cushion behind and made Mrs. Saunders make one for me. During my lying-in the Princess came one day with Mrs. Fitzgerald. She sent Mrs. F. away, and took a chair, and sate by my bedside. She said you will hear of my taking children in baskets, but you won't take any notice of it. I shall have them brought by a poor woman in a basket. I shall do it as a cover to have my own brought to me in that way; or, that is the way in which I must have my own brought when I have it. Very soon after this two children, who were twins, were brought by a poor woman in a basket. The Princess took them, and had them carried up into her room, and the Princess washed them herself. The Princess told me this herself. The father, a few days afterwards, came and insisted on having the children, and they were given to him. The Princess afterwards said to me, "You see I took the children, and it answered very well. The father had got them back, and she could not blame him: that she should take other children, and have quite a nursery." I saw the Princess on a Sunday, either the 30th or 31st of October, 1802, walking before her door. She was dressed so as to conceal her pregnancy. She had a long cloak, and a very



great muff. She had just returned from Greenwich Church. She looked very ill, and I thought must be very near her time.

"About a week or ten days after this, I received a note from the Princess, to desire that I would not come to Montague House, for they were apprehensive that the children they had taken had had the measles in their clothes, and that she was afraid my child might take it. When the Princess came to see me during my lying-in, she told me that, when she should be brought to bed, she wished I would not come to her for some time, for she might be confused in seeing me. About the end of December, I went to Gloucestershire, and stayed there about a month.—When I returned, which was in January, I went to Montague House, and was let in. The Princess was packing up something in a black box. Upon the sofa a child was lying covered over with a piece of red cloth. The Princess got up, and took me by the hand. She then led me to the sofa, and said, there is the child, I had him only two days after I saw you.

"The words were, either I had him, or I was brought to bed—the words were such as clearly imported that it was her own child. She said she got very well through it; she shewed me a mark on the child's hand, it is a pink mark. The Princess said, she has a mark like your little girl. I saw the child afterwards frequently with the Princess quite till Christmas, 1803, when I left Blackheath. I saw the mark upon the child's hand, and I am sure that it was the same child, I never saw any other child there. The Princess Charlotte used to see the child and play with him. The child used to call the Princess of Wales "Mamma." I saw the child looking at the window of the Princess's house about a month ago, before the Princess went into Devonshire, and I am sure that it is the same child. Not long after I had first seen the child, the Princess said, that she had the child at first to sleep with her

for a few nights, but it made her nervous, and now they had got a regular nurse for her.

“ She said, We gave it a little milk at first, but it was too much for me, and now we breed it by hand, and it does very well. I can swear positively that the child I saw at the window is the same child as the Princess told me she had two days after she parted with me. The child was called William. I never heard that it had any other name. When the child was in long clothes, we breakfasted one day with the Princess, and she said to Sir John Douglass,—This is the Deptford boy.—Independently of the Princess’s confession to me, I can swear that she was pregnant in 1802. In October, 1804, when we returned from Devonshire, I left my card at Montague-house, and on the 4th October, I received a letter from Mrs. Vernon, desiring me not to come any more to Montague House. I had never at this time mentioned the Princess’s being with child, or being delivered of a child, to any person, not even to Sir John Douglas. After receiving Mrs. Vernon’s letter, I wrote to the Princess on the subject. The letter was sent back unopened. I then wrote to Mrs. Fitzgerald, saying, that I thought myself extremely ill used. In two or three days after this, I received an anonymous, which I produce, and have marked with the letter A, and signed with my name, both on the letter and the envelope.

“ The Princess of Wales has told me, that she got a bed-fellow whenever she could, that nothing was more wholesome: she said, that nothing was more convenient than her own room; it stands at the head of the staircase which leads into the Park, and I have bolts in the inside, and have a bed-fellow whenever I like. I wonder you can be satisfied only with Sir John. She said this more than once. She has told me that Sir Sydney Smith had lain with her. That she believed all men liked a bed-fellow, but Sir Sydney better than any body else; that the Prince was the most complaisant man in the world; that she did what she liked, went



where she liked, and had what bed-fellow she liked, and the Prince paid for all.

(Signed) "CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS.

June 1, 1806.

"Sworn before us, June 1st, 1806,  
at Lord Grenville's, Downing-  
street, Westminster.

(Signed)

"ERSKINE,  
"SPENCER,  
"GRENVILLE,  
"ELLENBOROUGH."

#### THE DEPOSITION OF SIR JOHN DOUGLAS, KNT.

"I HAD a house at Blackheath, in 1801. Sir Sydney used to come to my house. I had a bed for him. The Princess of Wales formed an acquaintance with Lady Douglas, and came frequently to our house. I thought she came more for Sir Sydney Smith than for us. After she had been some time acquainted with us, she appeared to me to be with child. One day she leaned on the sofa, and put her hand upon her stomach, and said—Sir John, I shall never be Queen of England. I said, not if you don't deserve it. She seemed angry at first.

"In 1804, on the 27th of October, I received two letters by the two-penny post, one addressed to me, which I now produce, and have marked with the letter B. both on the envelope and the enclosure, and the other letter addressed to Lady Douglas, and which I now produce, and have marked with the letter C. both on the envelope and the enclosure.

(Signed)

"JOHN DOUGLAS,

June 1.

"Sworn before us, at Lord Grenville's House, in Downing-street,  
Westminster, June 1, 1806.

(Signed)

"ERSKINE,  
"SPENCER,  
"GRENVILLE,  
"ELLENBOROUGH."

## THE DEPOSITION OF ROBERT BIDGOOD.

"I HAVE lived with the Prince twenty-three years next September; I went to the Princess in March, 1798, and have lived with her Royal Highness ever since. About the year 1802, early in that year, I first observed Sir Sydney Smith come to Montague House: he used to stay very late at night; I have seen him early in the morning there, about ten or eleven o'clock. He was at Sir John Douglas's; and was in the habit, as well as Sir John and Lady Douglas, of dining, or having luncheon, or supping there almost every day. I saw Sir Sydney Smith one day, in 1802, in the blue room, about eleven o'clock in the morning, which is full two hours before we ever expected to see company. I asked the servants why they did not let me know that he was there? The footman informed me that they had let no person in. There was a private door in the Park, by which he might have come in if he had a key to it, and have got into the blue room without any of the servants perceiving him. I never observed any appearance of the Princess which could lead me to suppose that she was with child. I first observed Captain Manby come to Montague House either the end of 1803, or beginning of 1804. I was waiting one day in the anti-room, Captain Manby had his hat in his hand, and appeared to be going away: he was a long time with the Princess, and as I stood on the steps waiting, I looked into the room in which they were, and in the reflection in the looking-glass, I saw them salute each other—I mean, that they kissed each others lips. Captain Manby then went away. I then observed the Princess have her handkerchief in her hands, and wipe her eyes as if she was crying, and she went into the drawing-room. The Princess went to Southend in May, 1804; I went with her: we were there, I believe, about six weeks before the African came in. Siccard was very often watching with a glass to see when the ship would arrive.

"One day, he said he saw the African, and soon after the Captain put off in a boat from the ship. Sic-

card went down the shrubbery to meet him. When the Captain came on shore, Siccard conducted him to the Princess's house, and he dined there with the Princess and her ladies. After this, he came very frequently to see the Princess. The Princess had two houses on the Cliff, Nos. 8 and 9. She afterwards took the drawing-room of No. 7, which communicated by the balcony with No. 8, the three houses being adjoining. The Princess used to dine at No. 8, and after dinner to remove with the company into No. 7, and I have several times seen the Princess, after having gone into No. 7 with Captain Manby and the rest of the company, retire alone with Captain Manby from No. 7 through No. 8 into No. 9, which was the house in which the Princess slept; I suspected that Captain Manby slept frequently in the house. It was a subject of conversation in the house. Hints were given by the servants, and I believe that others suspected it as well as myself.

“The Princess took a child, which I understood was brought into the house by Stikeman. I waited only one week in three, and I was not there at the time the child was brought, but I saw it there early in 1803. The child who is now with the Princess is the same I saw there early in 1803; it has a mark on its left hand. Austin is the name of the man who was said to be the father. Austin's wife is, I believe, still alive. She has had another child, and has brought it sometimes to Montague House. It is very like the child who lives with the Princess. Mrs. Gordon was employed as a nurse for the child, and she used to bring the child to the Princess as soon as the Princess awoke, and the child used to stay with her Royal Highness the whole morning. The Princess appeared to be extremely fond of the child and still appears so.

(Signed)

“ R. BIDGOOD.

“ Sworn at Lord Grenville's  
House, in Downing Street,  
the 8th day of June, 1806.

(Signed)

“ SPENCER,  
“ GRENVILLE.”

## THE DEPOSITION OF WILLIAM COLE.

" I HAVE lived with the Princess of Wales ever since her marriage. Sir Sydney Smith first visited at Montague House about 1802. I have observed the Princess too familiar with Sir Sydney Smith. One day, I think about February in that year, the Princess ordered some sandwiches; I carried them into the blue room to her. Sir Sydney Smith was there; I was surprised to see him there, he must have come in from the Park; if he had been let in from Blackheath, he must have passed through the room in which I was waiting. When I had left the sandwiches, I returned, after some time, into the room, and Sir Sydney Smith was sitting very close to the Princess, on the sofa. I looked at him, and at her Royal Highness. She caught my eye, and saw that I noticed the manner in which they were sitting together. They appeared both a little confused when I came into the room. A short time before this, one night, about twelve o'clock, I saw a man go into the house from the Park, wrapped up in a great coat. I did not give any alarm, for the impression on my mind was, that it was not a thief. Soon after I had seen the Princess and Sir Sydney Smith sitting together on the sofa, the Duke of Kent sent for me, and told me that the Princess would be very glad if I would do the duty in town, because she had business to do in town which she would rather trust to me than any body else.

" The Duke said, that the Princess had thought it would be more agreeable to me to be told this by him than through Siccard. After this I never attended at Montague House, but occasionally, when the Princess sent for me. About July, 1802, I observed that the Princess had grown very large, and in the latter end of the same year she appeared to be grown thin; and I observed it to Miss Saunders, who said that the Princess was much thinner than she had been—I had not any idea of the Princess being with child. Mr. Lawrence, the painter, used to go to Montague House, about the latter



end of 1801, when he was painting; the Princess and he have slept in the house two or three nights together. I have often seen him alone with the Princess at eleven and twelve o'clock at night. He has been there as late as one or two o'clock in the morning. One night I saw him with the Princess in the blue-room, after the ladies had retired. Some time afterwards, when I supposed that he had gone to his room, I went to see that all was safe, and I found the blue-room door locked, and heard a whispering in it, and I went away.

(Signed)

“ WM. COLE.”

Sworn at Lord Grenville's House, in Downing-street, the 6th day of June, 1806.

(Signed)

“ SPENCER.

“ GRENVILLE.”

#### THE DEPOSITION OF FRANCES LLOYD.

“ I HAVE lived twelve years with the Princess of Wales next October. I am in the coffee-room; my situation in the coffee-room does not give me opportunities of seeing the Princess. I do not see her sometimes for months. Mr. Milles attended me for a cold. He asked me if the Princess came to Blackheath backwards and forwards, or something to that effect, for the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was with child. This must have been three or four years ago. It may have been five years ago.—I think it must have been some time before the child was brought to the Princess. I remember the child being brought, it was brought into my room. I had orders sent to me to give the mother arrow-root, with directions how to make it, to wean the child, and I gave it to the mother, and she took the child away; afterwards the mother brought the child back again.—Whether it was a week, ten days, or a fortnight, I cannot say, but it might be about that time.

The second time the mother brought the child, she brought it into my room;—I asked how a mother could part with her child? I am not sure which time I asked this.—The mother cried, and said she could not afford to keep it. The child was said to be about four months old when it was brought. I did not particularly observe it myself.

(Signed)

“FRANCES LLOYD.”

“I was at Ramsgate with the Princess in 1803.—One morning, when we were in the house at East Cliff, somebody, I do not recollect who, knocked at my door, and desired me to get up, to prepare breakfast for the Princess; this was about six o'clock; I was asleep. During the whole time I was in the Princess's service I had never been called up before, to make breakfast for the Princess. I slept in the Housekeeper's room, on the ground-floor; I opened the shutters of the windows for light. I knew at that time that Captain Manby's ship was in the Downs. When I opened the shutters, I saw the Princess walking down the garden with a Gentleman; she was walking down the gravel-walk towards the sea. No orders had been given over night to prepare breakfast early. The gentleman the Princess was walking with, was a tall man: I was surprised to see the Princess walking with a gentleman at that time in the morning—I am sure it was the Princess. While we were at Blackheath, a woman at Charlton, of the name of Townley, told me that she had some linen to wash from the Princess's house; that the linen was marked with the appearance of a miscarriage, or a delivery. The woman has since left Charlton, but she has friends there. I think it must have been before the child was brought to the Princess, that the woman told me this. I know all the women in the Princess's house. I don't think that any of them were in a state of pregnancy, and if any had, I think I must have known it. I never told Cole, that Mary Wilson, when she supposed the



Princess to be in the Library, had gone into the Princess's bed-room, and had found a man there at breakfast with the Princess; or that there was a great to do about it; and that Mary Wilson was sworn to secrecy, and threatened to be turned away if she divulged what she had seen.

(Signed) "FRANCES LLOYD."

"Sworn at Lord Grenville's house in Downing-street, the 7th day of June, 1806, before us,

(Signed) "ERSKINE,  
"SPENCER,  
"GRENVILLE,  
"ELLENBOROUGH."

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#### THE DEPOSITION OF MARY ANN WILSON.

"I BELIEVE it will be ten years next quarter that I have lived with the Princess of Wales as house maid. I wait on the ladies who attend the Princess. I remember when the child who is now with the Princess was brought there. Before it came, I heard say that it was to come. The mother brought the child. It appeared to be about four months old when it was brought. I remember twins being brought to the Princess before that child was brought. I never noticed the Princess's shape to be different in that year from what it was before. I never had a thought that the Princess was with child. I have heard it reported. It is a good while ago. I never myself suspected her being with child. I think she could not have been with child, and have gone on to her time, without my knowing it. I was at Southend with the Princess. Captain Manby used to visit the Princess there. I made the Princess's bed, and have been in the habit of making it ever since

I lived with her Royal Highness. Another maid, whose name is Ann Bye, assisted with me in making the bed. From what I observed, I never had any reason to believe that two persons had slept in the bed; I never saw any particular appearance in it. The linen was washed by Stikeman's wife.

“MARY WILSON.”

“Sworn at Lord Grenville's house in Downing Street, the 7th day of June, 1806, before us,

(Signed)

“ERSKINE,  
“SPENCER,  
“GRENVILLE,  
“ELLENBOROUGH.”

#### THE DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL ROBERTS.

“I AM a footman to the Princess of Wales. I remember the child being taken by the Princess. I never observed any particular appearance of the Princess in that year—nothing that led me to believe that she was with child. Sir Sydney Smith used to visit the Princess at Blackheath. I never saw him alone with the Princess. He never staid after eleven o'clock.—I recollect Mr. Cole once asking me (I think three years ago), whether there were any favourites in the family? I remember saying, that Captain Manby and Sir Sydney Smith were frequently at Blackheath, and dined there oftener than any other persons. I never knew Sir Sydney Smith to stay later than the ladies. I cannot say exactly at what hour he went, but I never remember his staying alone with the Princess.

(Signed)

“SAMUEL ROBERTS.”

“Sworn at Lord Grenville's house, in Downing Street, the 7th day of June, 1806, before us,

(Signed)

“ERSKINE,  
“SPENCER,  
“GRENVILLE,  
“ELLENBOROUGH.”

## DEPOSITION OF THOMAS STIKEMAN.

" I HAVE been Page to the Princess of Wales ever since she has been in England. When I first saw the child who is with the Princess, it is about four years ago. Her Royal Highness had a strong desire to have an infant, which I and all the house knew. I heard there was a woman who had twins, one of which the Princess was desirous to have, but the parents would not part with it. A woman came to the door with a petition to get her husband replaced in the Dock-yard, who had been removed; she had a child with her; I took the child, I believe, and shewed it to Mrs. Sanders. I then returned the child to the woman. I made inquiries after the father, and afterwards desired the woman to bring the child again to the house, which she did. The child was taken to the Princess; after the Princess had seen it, she desired the woman to take it again, and bring it back in a few days, and Mrs. Sanders was desired to provide linen for it.

" Within a few days the child was brought again by the mother, and was left, and has been with the Princess ever since. I do not recollect the child had any mark, but, upon reflection, I do recollect that the mother said he was marked with elder wine on the hand. The father of the child whose name is Austin, lives with me at Pimlico. My wife is a laundress, and washes the linen of the Prince.—Austin is employed to turn a mangle for me. The child was born in Brownlow Street. I never saw the woman to my knowledge before she came with the petition to the door. I had no particular directions by the Princess to procure a child; I thought it better to take the child of persons of good character than the child of a pauper. Nothing led me, from the appearance of the Princess, to suppose that she was with child: but from her shape, it is difficult to judge when she is with child. When she was with child of the Princess Charlotte, I should not have known it when she was far advanced in her time, if I had not been told it.

“ Sir Sydney Smith, at one time, visited very frequently at Montague House, two or three times a week. At the time the Princess was altering her room in the Turkish style, Sir Sydney Smith’s visits were very frequent. The Princess consulted him upon them. Mr. Morell was the upholsterer; Sir Sydney Smith came frequently alone. He staid alone with the Princess sometimes till eleven o’clock at night. He has been there till twelve o’clock, and after, I believe, alone with the Princess. The Princess is of that lively vivacity, that she makes herself familiar with gentlemen, which prevented my being struck with his staying so late. I do not believe that at that time any other gentleman visited the Princess so frequently and staid so late. I have seen the Princess, when they were alone, sitting with Sir Sydney Smith on the same sofa, in the blue-room. I had access to the blue-room at all times; there was an inner room which opened into the blue-room. When that room was not lighted up, I did not go into it, I did not consider that I had a right to go into it. I had no idea on what account I was brought here. I did not know that the Princess’s conduct was questioned, or questionable.

“ I was with the Princess at Ramsgate; when she was at East Cliff, Captain Manby was very frequently there: went away as late at night as eleven o’clock. I do not remember Fanny Lloyd being called up any morning to make breakfast for the Princess. I did not like Captain Manby’s coming so often and staying so late; and I was uneasy at it. I remember a piece of plate, a silver lamp, being sent to Captain Manby; I saw it in Siccard’s possession; he told me it was for Captain Manby, and he had a letter to send with it. I have never seen Captain Manby at the Princess’s, at Ramsgate, before nine o’clock in the morning, but I have heard he has been there earlier. I had never any suspicion of there being any thing improper, either from the frequent visits of Captain Manby, or from his conduct. I was at Cartherington with the Princess; she used to go out generally in her own chaise.



“ I think I have once or twice seen her go out with Mr. Hood, in his one horse chaise ; they have been out for two hours, or two hours and a half, together. I believe only a day or two elapsed between the time of the child being first brought and being then brought again, and left with the Princess. I am sure the child was not weaned after it had been first brought. I do not recollect any Gentleman ever sleeping in the House. I do not remember Lawrence, the painter, ever sleeping there. The Princess seems very fond of the child ;—it is always called William Austin.

(Signed) “ THOMAS STIKEMAN.”

“ Sworn at Lord Grenville’s  
house, in Downing Street,  
the 7th day of June, 1806,  
before us,

(Signed)

“ ERSKINE.

“ SPENCER.

“ GRENVILLE.

“ ELLENBOROUGH.”

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#### THE DEPOSITION OF JOHN SICCARD.

“ I HAVE lived seven years with the Princess of Wales, am House-steward, and have been in that situation from the end of six months after I first lived with her Royal Highness. I remember the child who is now with the Princess of Wales being brought there ; it was about five months old when it was brought ; it is about four years ago, just before we went to Ramsgate. I had not the least suspicion of the object of my being brought here.

“I had opportunity of seeing the Princess frequently : I waited on her at dinner and supper ; I never observed that the Princess had the appearance of being with child : I think it was hardly possible that she should have been with child without my perceiving it. Sir Sydney Smith used to visit very frequently at Montague House, in 1802, with Sir John and Lady Douglas. He was very often, I believe, alone with the Princess, and so was Mr. Canning and other gentlemen. I cannot say that I ever suspected Sir S. Smith of any improper conduct with the Princess. I never had any suspicion of the Princess acting improperly with Sir Sydney Smith or any other gentleman. I remember Captain Manby visiting at Montague House. The Princess of Wales did not pay for the expence of fitting up his cabin, but the linen furniture was ordered by me by direction of the Princess, of Newberry and Jones. It was put by Newberry and Jones in the Princess's bill, and was paid for with the rest of the bills by Miss Heyman.

(Signed)

“ JOHN SICCARD.

“ Sworn at Lord Grenville's house,  
in Downing-street, the 7th June,  
before us,

(Signed)

“ ERSKINE.

“ SPENCER.

“ GRENVILLE.

“ ELLENBOROUGH.”

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#### THE DEPOSITION OF CHARLOTTE SANDER.

“ I HAVE lived with the Princess of Wales eleven years. I am a native of Brunswick, and came with



the Princess from Brunswick. The Princess has had a little boy living with her under her protection; he had a mark on his hand, but it is worn off; I first saw him four years ago, in the Autumn. The father and mother of the child are still alive. I have seen them both. The father worked in the Dock-yard at Deptford, but has now lost the use of his limbs; the father's name is Austin. The mother brought the child to the Princess when he was four months old; I was present when the child was brought to the Princess; she was in her own room up stairs, when the child was brought; she came out and took the child herself. I understood that the child was expected before it was brought.—I am sure that I never saw the child in the house before it appeared to be four months old.

“The Princess was not ill or indisposed in the autumn of 1802. I was dresser to her Royal Highness; she could not be ill or indisposed without my knowing it. I am sure that she was not confined to her room, or to her bed in that autumn;—there was not to my knowledge, any other child in the house; it was hardly possible there could have been a child there without my knowing it. I have no recollection that the Princess had grown bigger in the year 1802 than usual; I am sure the Princess was not pregnant; being her dresser, I must have seen it, if she was. I solemnly and positively swear I have no reason to know or believe that the Princess of Wales has been at any time pregnant during the time I have lived with her Royal Highness at Montague-house. I may have said to Cole, that the Princess was grown much thinner, but I do not recollect that I did. I never heard any body say any thing about the Princess being pregnant till I came here to-day. I did not expect to be asked any questions respecting the Princess being pregnant. Nobody came over to the Princess from Germany, in the Autumn of 1802, to my knowledge.

“ Her Royal Highness was generally blooded twice a-year, but not lately. I never had any reason to suppose that the Princess received the visits of any gentleman at improper hours. Sir Sydney Smith visited her frequently, and almost daily. He was there very late, sometimes till two o'clock in the morning. I never saw Sir Sydney Smith in a room alone with the Princess late at night. I never saw any thing which led me to suppose that Sir Sydney Smith was on a very familiar footing with the Princess of Wales. I attended the Princess of Wales to Southend. She had two houses. No. 9 and No. 8. I knew Captain Manby; he commanded the African; he visited the Princess while his ship was there; he was frequently with the Princess.

“ I do not know or believe, and I have no reason to believe, that Capt. Manby stayed till very late hours with the Princess. I never suspected that there was any improper familiarity between them. I never expressed to any body a wish that Captain Manby's visits were not so frequent. If the Princess had company I was never present. The Princess was at Ramsgate in 1803; I have seen Captain Manby there frequently. He came to the Princess's house to dinner; he never stayed till late at night at the Princess's house. I was in Devonshire with the Princess lately; there was no one officer that she saw when she was in Devonshire more than the rest.

“ I never heard from the Princess that she apprehended her conduct was questioned. When I was brought here I thought I might be questioned respecting the Princess's conduct, and I was sorry to come; I don't know why I thought so, I never saw any thing in the conduct of the Princess, while I lived with her, which would have made me uneasy if I had been her husband.

“ When I was at South End I dined in the Steward’s room. I can’t say whether I ever heard any body in the Steward’s room say any thing about the Captain (meaning Captain Manby;) it is so long ago, I may have forgot it: I have seen Captain Manby alone with the Princess, at No. 9, in the drawing room at South End; I have seen it only once or twice; it was at two or three o’clock in the afternoon, and never later. I slept in a room next to the Princess, in the house, No. 9. at South End; I never saw Captain Manby in any part of that house but the drawing room; I have no reason to believe he was in any other room in the house. I was at Catherington with the Princess; she was at Mr. Hood’s house; I never saw any familiarity between her and Mr. Hood; I have seen her drive out in Mr. Hood’s carriage with him alone; it was a gig, they used to be absent for several hours, a servant of the Princess attended them; I have delivered packets by order of the Princess, which she gave me sealed up, to Sicard, to be by him forwarded to Captain Manby. The birth day of the child who lives with the Princess is the 11th of July, as his mother told me; she says that he was christened at Deptford. The child had a mark on the hand, the mother told me that it was from red wine; I believe the child came to the Princess in November.

(Signed)

C. SANDER.

Sworn at Lord Grenville’s  
House, in Downing-Street,  
the 7th Day of June, 1806.

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH.

---

 (No. 12.)

## THE DEPOSITION OF SOPHIA AUSTIN.

I KNOW the child which is now with the Princess of Wales; I am the mother of it; I was delivered of it four years ago 11th of next July, at Brownlow-street Hospital. I have lain in there three times; William, who is with the Princess, is the second child I laid in of there. It was marked in the right hand with red wine. My husband was a labourer in the Dock-yard of Deptford. When peace was proclaimed a number of the workmen were discharged, and my husband was

one who was discharged. I went to the Princess with a petition on a Saturday, to try to get my husband restored. I lived at that time at Deptford New Row, No. 7, with a person of the name of Bearblock; he was a milkman. The day I went to the Princess with the petition was a fortnight before the 6th of November. Mr. Bennet, a baker, in New-street, was our dealer, and I took the child to Mr. Bennet's when I went to receive my husband's wages, every week, from the time I left the Hospital till I carried the child to the Princess. I knew Mr. Stikeman only by having seen him once before, when I went to apply for a letter to Brownlow-street Hospital. When I went to Montague-house I desired Mr. Stikeman to present my petition. He said they were denied to do such thing, but seeing me with a baby, he could do no less. He then took the child from me, and was a long time gone; he then brought me back the child, and brought half a guinea which the ladies sent me. He said, if the child had been younger, he thought he could have got it taken care of for me, but desired that I would come up again; I went up again on the Monday following, and I saw Mr. Stikeman; Mr. Stikeman afterwards came several times to us, and appointed me to take the child to Montague-house on the 5th of November, but it rained all day, and I did not take it. Mr. Stikeman came down to me on the Saturday, the 6th of November, and I took the child on that day to the Princess's house. The Princess was out, I waited till she returned; she saw the child, and asked its age. I went down into the coffee-room, and they gave me some arrow-root to wean the child, for I was suckling the child at this time, and when I had weaned the child, I was to bring it, and leave it with the Princess. I did wean the child, and brought it to the Princess's house on the 15th of November, and left it there, and it has been with the Princess ever since. I saw the child last Whit-Monday, and I swear that it is my child.

(Signed)

SOPHIA AUSTIN.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's  
House, in Downing-street,  
June 7, 1806, before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 13.)

MY LORD,

20th June, 1806.

IN consequence of certain inquiries directed by his Majesty, Lady Douglas, wife of Sir John Douglas of the Marines, has deposed upon oath, that she was told by her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, that at a breakfast at Lady Willoughby's house in May or June, 1802, &c.

[Extract from Lady Douglas's Deposition.]

It being material to ascertain as far as possible the truth of this fact, I am to request, that your Lordship will have the goodness to desire Lady Willoughby to put down in writing every circumstance in any manner relative thereto (if any such there be) of which her Ladyship has any recollection; and also to apprise me, for his Majesty's information, whether at any time, during the course of the above-mentioned year, Lady Willoughby observed any such alteration in the Princess's shape, or any other circumstances, as might induce her Ladyship to believe that her Royal Highness was then pregnant.—I am, &c.

SPENCER.

(No. 14.)

MY DEAR LORD,

Sidmouth, 21st June, 1806.

IN obedience to your commands I lost no time in communicating to Lady Willoughby the important subject of your private letter, dated the 20th instant, and I have the honour of enclosing a letter to your Lordship from Lady Willoughby.—I have the honour, &c.

GWYDIR.

(No. 15.)

MY LORD,

IN obedience to the command contained in your Lordship's letter communicated to me by Lord Gwydir, I have the honour to inform you, that I have no recollection whatever of the fact stated to have taken place, during a breakfast at Whitehall in May or June 1802; nor do I bear in mind any particular circumstances relative to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales at the period to which you allude.—I have the honour, &c.

June 21, 1806.—EARL SPENCER.

WILLOUGHBY.

(No. 16.)

[Extract from the Register of the Births and Baptisms of Children born in the Brownlow-street Lying-in Hospital.]

Born	1802, MAY,	Baptized,
8, .....	Thomas, of Richard and Elizabeth Austin .....	20
11, .....	William, of Samuel and Sophia Austin .....	16

The above are the only two entries under the name of Austin, about the period in question, and were extracted by me. No description of the children is preserved.

June 23, 1806.

CHARLES WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN.

(No. 17.)

THE DEPOSITION OF ELIZABETH GOSDEN.

I AM the wife of Francis Gosden, who is a servant of the Princess of Wales, and has lived with her Royal Highness eleven years. In November, 1802, I was sent for to the Princess's house to look after a little child. I understood that he had been then nine days in the house. I was nurse to the child. One of the ladies, I think Miss Sander, delivered the child to me, and told me her Royal Highness wished me to take care of him. The child never slept with the Princess. I sometimes



used to take him to the Princess before she was up, and leave him with her on the bed. The child had a mark on the hand ; it appeared to be a stain of wine, but is now worn out. I was about a year and three quarters with the child. The mother used to come often to see him. I never saw the Princess dress the child, or take off its things herself, but she has seen me do it. The child is not so much now with the Princess as he was.

(Signed)

ELIZABETH GOSDEN.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's  
house in Downing-street,  
the 23d Day of June, 1803,  
before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH.

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(No. 18.)

#### THE DEPOSITION OF BETTY TOWNLEY.

I LIVED at Charlton sixteen years, and till within the last two years I was a laundress, and used to wash linen for the Princess of Wales's family. After the Princess left Charlton, and went to Blackheath, I used to go over to Blackheath and fetch the linen to wash. I have had linen from the Princess's house the same as other ladies ; I mean, that there were such appearances on it as might arise from natural causes to which women are subject. I never washed the Princess's own bed linen but once or twice occasionally. I recollect one bundle of linen once coming, which I thought rather more marked than usual. They told me the Princess had been bled with leeches, and had stained the linen more. The servants told me so, but I don't remember who the servants were that told me so. I recollect once I came to town, and left the linen with my daughter to wash ; I looked at the clothes slowly before I went, and counted them, and my daughter and a woman she employed with her, washed them, when I was in town. I thought when I looked them over, that there might be something more than usual ; my opinion was, that it was from a miscarriage, the linen had the appearance of a miscarriage. I believed it at the time. There were fine damask napkins, and some of them marked with a little red crown in the corner, and some without marks. I might mention it to Fanny Lloyd. I don't recollect



when this was, but it must be more than two years and a half ago, for I did not wash for the Princess's family but very little for the last six months. Mary Wilson used to give me the linen, and I believe it was she who told me the Princess was bled with leeches, but the appearance of the linen which I have spoken of before was different from that which it was said was stained by bleeding with leeches. I remember the child coming, I used to wash the linen for the child; and Mrs. Gosden, who nursed the child, used to pay me for it. I kept a book in which I entered the linen washed. I am not sure whether I have it still, but if I have, it is in a chest at my daughter's, at Charlton, and I will produce it if I can find it.

(Signed)

B. TOWNLEY.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's  
House, in Downing-street,  
this 23d day of June, 1806,  
before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH.

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 (No. 19.)

THE DEPOSITION OF THOMAS EDMEDS,  
*Of Greenwich, Surgeon and Apothecary.*

I AM a Surgeon and Apothecary at Greenwich, and was appointed the Surgeon and Apothecary of the Princess of Wales in 1801. From that time I have attended her Royal Highness and her Household. I know Fanny Lloyd, who attended in the Coffee-room at the Princess's; I have frequently attended her for a cold. I do not recollect that I ever said any thing to her respecting the Princess of Wales; it never once entered my thoughts, while I attended the Princess, that she was pregnant; I never said that she was so to Fanny Lloyd, I have bled the Princess twice. The second bleeding was in 1802, and it was in the June quarter, as appears by the book I kept. I do not know what she was bled for; it was at her own desire; it was not by any medical advice. I was unwilling to do it, but she wished it. If I recollect, she complained of a pain in the chest, but I do not remember that she had any illness. I did not use to bleed her twice a year. I certainly saw her Royal Highness in November, 1802; I saw her on the

16th November, but I had not any idea of her being with child. I did not attend her on the 16th of November, but I saw her then. I was visiting a child; a male child, from Deptford. I have no recollection of having seen the Princess in October, 1802. The child must have been from three to five months old when I first saw it. I have no recollection of the Princess having been ill about the end of October, 1802. I have visited the child very often since, and I have always understood it to be the same child. The Princess used sometimes to send for leeches, and had them from me. I do not think that I attended the Princess, or saw her often in the summer and autumn of 1802. I had not the sole care of the Princess's health, during the time I have spoken of; Sir Francis Millman attended her occasionally.

(Signed)

THOMAS EDMEDADS.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's  
house, in Downing-street,  
June 25, 1806, before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH.

---

(No. 20.)

### THE DEPOSITION OF SAMUEL GILLAM MILLS.

*Of Greenwich, Surgeon.*

I AM a Surgeon at Greenwich, have been in partnership with Mr. Edmeads since 1800; before he was my partner I attended the Princess of Wales's Family from the time of her coming to Blackheath from Charlton: I was appointed by the Princess her Surgeon in April, 1801, by a written appointment, and from that time I never attended her Royal Highness or any of the servants in my medical capacity, except that I once attended Miss Garnet, and once Miss Melfield; there was a child brought to the Princess when I attended her, I was called upon to examine the child; it was a girl. It must have been in 1801, or thereabouts. The child afterwards had the measles, and I attended her. When I first saw the child I think it must have been about ten months old; it must have been prior to April, 1801. I understood that the child was taken through charity. I remember that there was a female servant who attended in the coffee-room. I never said to that woman, or to

any other person, that the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was with child; and I never thought so, or surmised any thing of the kind. I was once sent for by her Royal Highness to bleed her; I was not at home at that time. Mr. Edmeads bled her. I had bled her two or three times before, it was by direction of Sir Francis Millman, it was for an inflammation she had on the lungs. As much as I knew, it was not usual for the Princess to be bled twice a year. I don't know that any other medical person attended her at the time that I did, nor do I believe that there did. I don't know that Sir Francis Millman had advised that she should be blooded at the time that I was sent for, and was not at home, nor what was the cause of her being then blooded. I do recollect something of having attended the servant who was, in the coffee-room for a cold; but I am sure I never said to her that the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was so. I have known that the Princess had frequently sent to Mr. Edmeads for leeches. When I saw the female child, Miss Sander was in the room, and some other servants, but I don't recollect who I was sent for to see, whether there was any disease about the child to see, whether it was a healthy child, as her Royal Highness meant to take it under her patronage; the child could just walk alone. I saw the child frequently afterwards, it was one time with Bidgood and another time with Gosden and his wife. I don't recollect that the Princess was by at any time when I saw the child; I never saw the child in Montague House when I attended it as a patient, but when I was first sent for to see if the child had any disease, it was in Montague House.

(Signed)

SAM. GILLAM MILLS.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's  
House, in Downing-street,  
June 25, 1806, before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
GRENVILLE,  
SPENCER,  
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 21.)

#### THE DEPOSITION OF HARRIET FITZGERALD.

I CAME first to live with the Princess of Wales in 1801, merely as a friend and companion, I have conti-

nued to live with her Royal Highness till this time. I know Lady Douglas ; I remember her lying-in ; it happened by accident that her Royal Highness was in the house at the time of Lady Douglas's delivery, I think it was in July, 1802. I was there myself, the Princess was not in the room at the time Lady Douglas was delivered ; there was certainly no appearance of the Princess being pregnant at that time. I saw the Princess every day, and at all hours. I believe it to be quite impossible that the Princess should have been with child without my observing it. I never was at breakfast with the Princess at Lady Willoughby's. The Princess took a little girl into the house, about nine years ago. I was not in the house at the time. I was in the house when this boy, who is now there, was brought. She had said before openly, that she should like to have a child, and she had asked the servant who brought the child, if he knew of any person who would part with a child.

I was at South End with the Princess. I remember Captain Manby being there sometimes. He was not there very often ; he used to come at different hours as the tide served ; he dined there, but never stayed late ; I was at South End all the time the Princess was there. I cannot recollect that I have seen Captain Manby there, or know him to be there later than nine, or half after nine ; I never knew of any correspondence by letter with him when he was abroad. I don't recollect to have seen him very early in the morning at the Princess's : I was at Ramsgate with the Princess : Captain Manby may have dined there once, he never slept there to my knowledge, nor do I believe he did.

The Princess rises at different hours, seldom before ten or eleven. I never knew her up at six o'clock in the morning. If she had been up so early I should not have known it, not being up so early myself. I remember the the Princess giving Captain Manby an inkstand. He had the care of two boys, whom he protected. I cannot say that Captain Manby did not sleep at South End. He may have slept in the village, but I believe he never slept in the Princess's house.

I was at Cathering with the Princess. I remember her Royal Highness going out in an open carriage with the present Lord Hood; I believe Lord Hood's servant attended them: there was only one servant, and no other carriage with them. I was at Dawlich the summer with the Princess, and afterwards at Mount Edgecumbe. The Princess saw a great deal of company there; Sir R. Strachan used to come there. I do not know what was the cause of his discontinuing his visits there. I remember Sir Sydney Smith being frequently at Montague House; he was sometimes there as late as twelve or one o'clock in the morning, but never alone that I know of.

The Princess was not in the room when Lady Douglas was brought to bed; I know she was not, because I was in the room myself when Lady Douglas was delivered. Dr. Machie, of Lewisham, was the accoucher. I do not recollect Sir Sydney Smith ever being alone with the Princess in the evening. It may have happened, but I do not know that it did. I used to sit with the Princess always in the evening, but not in the morning. I was with the Princess in the Isle of Wight; Mr. Hood and Lord Beauclerk were there with her: she went there from Portsmouth.

(Signed)

HARRIET FITZGERALD.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's  
House, in Downing-street,  
the 27th Day of June, 1806,  
before us,

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 22.)

MY LORD,

THE extreme importance of the business on which I have before troubled your Lordship and Lady Willoughby, makes it the indispensable duty of the persons to whom his Majesty has entrusted the Inquiry, further to request that her Ladyship will have the goodness to return in writing, distinct and separate answers to the enclosed Queries. They beg leave to add, that in the discharge of the trust committed to them, they have been obliged to examine upon oath the several persons to whose testimony they have thought it right to have recourse on this occasion. They have been unwilling to give Lady Willoughby the trouble of so long a journey for that purpose, well knowing the full reliance which may be placed on every thing which shall be stated by her Ladyship in this form. But on her return to town it may probably be judged necessary, for the sake of uniformity in this most important proceeding, that she should be so good as to confirm on oath, the truth of the written answers requested from her Ladyship.

[No Signature in the original.]

(No. 23.)

MY LORD,

I IMMEDIATELY communicated to Lady Willoughby the Queries transmitted to me in the envelope of a letter dated July the first, which I had the honour to receive this day from

F

Sidmouth, July 3, 1806.



your Lordship. I return the Queries with Lady Willoughby's Answers in her own handwriting.

We are both truly sensible of your Lordship's kind attention in not requiring Lady Willoughby's personal attendance. She will most readily obey the Order of the Council, should her presence become necessary.—I have the honour, &c.

To Earl Spencer, &c. &c. &c.

GWYDIR.

(A true Copy, J. BECKET.)

(No. 24.)

*Queries.*

1. Does Lady Willoughby remember seeing the Princess of Wales at breakfast or dinner at her house, either at Whitehall or Beckenham, on or about the months of May or June, 1802?

2. Has her Ladyship any recollection of the circumstance of her Royal Highness having retired from the company at such breakfast or dinner, on account, or under the pretence of having spilt any thing over her handkerchief? And if so, did Lady Willoughby attend her Royal Highness on that occasion? and what then passed between them relative to that circumstance?

3. Had Lady Willoughby frequent opportunities in the course of that year, to see her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and at what periods? And did she at any time during the year, observe any appearance which led her to suspect that the Princess of Wales was pregnant?

4. Is Lady Willoughby acquainted with any other circumstances leading to the same conclusion, or tending to establish the fact of a criminal intercourse, or improper familiarity between her Royal Highness and any other person whatever? and if so, what are they?

*Answers.*

1. In the course of the last ten years the Princess of Wales has frequently done me the honour to breakfast and dine at Whitehall and Langley, in Kent. Her Royal Highness may have been at my house in the months of May or June, 1802, but of the periods at which I had the honour of receiving her, I have no precise recollection.

2. I do not remember her Royal Highness having at any time retired from the company, either at Whitehall or at Langley, under the pretence of having spilt any thing over her handkerchief.

3. To the best of my remembrance I had few opportunities of seeing the Princess of Wales in the year 1802, and I do not recollect having observed any particular circumstances relative to her Royal Highness's appearance.

4. During the ten years I have had the honour of knowing the Princess of Wales, I do not bear in mind a single instance of her Royal Highness's conduct in society towards any individual, tending to establish the fact of a criminal intercourse, or improper familiarity.

WILLOUGHBY.

(No. 25.)

ROBERT BIDGOOD'S FURTHER DEPOSITION.

THE Princess used to go out in a Phaeton with coachman and helper towards Long Reach, eight or ten times, carrying luncheon and wine with her. When Captain Manby's ship was at Long Reach, always Mrs. Fitzgerald was with her, she would go out about one, and return about five or six, sometimes sooner or later. The day the Africaine sailed from South End the Princess ordered us to pack up for Blackheath next morning. Captain Manby was there three times a week, at least, whilst his ship lay for six weeks off South End, at the Nore; he came as tide served; used to come in a morning, and dine, and drink tea. I have seen him next morning, by ten o'clock. I suspected he slept at No.

9 with the Princess. She always put out the candles herself in the drawing-room, at No. 9, and bid me not to put them out. She gave me the orders as soon as she went to South End. I used to see water jugs, basins, and towels set out opposite the Princess's door in the passage. Never saw them so left in the passage at any other time. I suspected he was there at those times, and there was a general suspicion through the house. Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald was there, and Miss Hammond, (now Lady Hood). My suspicion arose from seeing them in the glasses kiss each other as mentioned before, like people fond of each other, a very close kiss. Her behaviour like that of a woman attached to a man; used to be by themselves at luncheon, at South End, when ladies not sent for, a number of times.

There was a poney which Captain Manby used to ride. It stood in the stable ready for him, and which Sicard used to ride. The servants used to talk and laugh about Captain Manby. It was a matter of discourse amongst them. I lived there when Sir Sydney Smith came; her manner with him appeared very familiar; she appeared very attentive to him, but I did not suspect any thing further. All the upper servants had keys of the doors to the Park, to let her Royal Highness in and out. I used to see Sicard receive letters from Mrs. Sanders to put in the post instead of the bag; this was after Captain Manby had gone to sea. I suspected them to be for Captain Manby, and others in the house supposed the same.

(Signed)

R. BIDGOOD.

Sworn at Lord Grenville's  
House, in Downing-street,  
the 3d day of July, 1806.

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH;

---

 (No. 26.)

## SIR FRANCIS MILLMAN'S DEPOSITION.

I attended the Princess of Wales in the Spring, and latter end of the year 1802, i. e. in March and towards the Autumn. Mr. Mills, of Greenwich, attended her as her Royal Highness's Apothecary, and Mr. Mills and his partner, Mr. Edmeads, have attended since. I do

not know that any other medical person attended her at that time, either as apothecary or physician. In March, 1802, I attended her for a sore throat and fever. In 1803, in April, I attended her Royal Highness again with Sir Walter Farquhar. I don't know whether she was blooded in 1802. She was with difficulty persuaded to be blooded in 1803 for a pain in her chest, saying she had not been blooded before, that they could not find a vein in her arm. I saw no mark in her arm of her having been blooded before. I observed her Royal Highness's person at the end of the year 1802. I never observed then, or at any other time, any thing which induced me to think her Royal Highness was in a pregnant situation. I think it is impossible she should in that year have been delivered of a child without my observing it. She, during that year, and at all times, was in the habit of receiving the visits of the Duke of Gloucester. I never attended her Royal Highness but on extraordinary illness. Her Royal Highness has for the last year and a half had her prescriptions made up at Walker and Young's, St. James's-street. If she had been a pregnant woman in June, 1802, I could not have helped observing it.

(Signed)

FR. MILLMAN.

Sworn before us in Downing-  
street, July 3, 1806.

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH.

(No. 27.)

## THE DEPOSITION OF MRS. LISLE.

I, Hester Lisle, am in the Princess of Wales's family, have been so ever since her Royal Highness's marriage. I was not at South End with the Princess; was at Blackheath with her in 1802, but am not perfectly sure as to dates. I am generally a month at a time, three months in the year, with her Royal Highness, in April, August, and December: was so in August, 1802. I did not observe any alteration in her Royal Highness's shape which gave me any idea that she was pregnant; during my attendance scarcely a day passes without my

seeing her. She could not be far advanced in pregnancy without my knowing it.

I was at East Cliffe with her Royal Highness, in August, 1803; I saw Captain Manby only once at East Cliffe, in August, 1803, to the best of my recollection—he might have been oftener; and once again at Deal Castle: Captain Manby landed there with some boys the Princess takes on charity. I saw Captain Manby at East Cliffe one morning, not particularly early. I do not know of any presents which the Princess made Captain Manby. I have seen Captain Manby at Blackheath one Christmas; he used to come to dine the Christmas before we were at Ramsgate. It was the Christmas after Mrs. Anstin's child came. He always went away in my presence. I had no reason to think he stayed after we (the Ladies) retired. He lodged on the Heath at that time. I believe his ship was fitting up at Deptford. He was there frequently. I think not every day. He generally came to dinner there three or four times a week or more. I suppose he might be alone with her. But the Princess is in the habit of seeing gentlemen and tradesmen without my being present; I have seen him at luncheon and dinner both; the boys came with him, not to dinner, and not generally, not above two or three times; two boys, I think.

Sir Sydney Smith came also frequently the Christmas before that, to the best of my recollection. At dinner, when Captain Manby dined, he always sat next her Royal Highness; the constant company were Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald and myself; we all retired with the Princess, and sat in the same room; he generally retired about eleven o'clock; he sat with us till then. This occurred three or four times a week, or more. Her Royal Highness, the Lady in Waiting, and her Page, have each a key of the door from the Green-house to the Park. Captain Manby and the Princess used, when we were together, to be speaking together separately, conversing separately, but not in a room alone together, to my knowledge. He was a person with whom she appeared to have greater pleasure in talking than to the



ladies. She behaved to him only as any woman would who likes flirting. I should not have thought any married woman would have behaved properly, who should have behaved as her Royal Highness did to Captain Manby. I can't say whether she was attached to Captain Manby, only that it was a flirting conduct. Never saw any gallantries, as kissing her hand, or the like.

I was with her Royal Highness at Lady Sheffield's, last Christmas, in Sussex. I inquired what company was there when I came. She said, only Mr. John Chester, who was there by her Royal Highness's orders; that she could get no other company to meet her, on account of the roads and season of the year. He dined and slept there that night. The next day other company came. Mr. Chester remained; I heard her Royal Highness say she had been ill in the night, and came out for a light, and lighted her candle in her servant's room; I returned from Sheffield-place to Blackheath with the Princess. Captain Moore dined there. I left him and the Princess twice alone for a short time; he might be alone half an hour with her. In the room below in which we had been sitting, I went to look for a book to complete a set her Royal Highness was lending Captain Moore. She made him a present of an inkstand, to the best of my recollection. He was there one morning in January last, on the Princess Charlotte's Birthday. He went away before the rest of the company; I might be absent twenty minutes the second time. I was away the night Captain Moore was there. At Lady Sheffield's her Royal Highness paid more attention to Mr. Chester than to the rest of the company. I knew of her Royal Highness walking out twice home with Mr. Chester in the morning alone; once a short time it rained—the other not an hour—not long. Mr. Chester is a pretty young man. Her attentions to him were not uncommon, not the same as to Captain Manby. I am not certain whether the Princess answered any letters of Lady Douglas. I was at Catherington with the Princess. Remember Mr. Hood, now Lord Hood, there, and the Princess going out airing with him alone in Mr. Hood's little whiskey, and his servant man with



them. Mr. Hood drove : staid out two or three hours ; more than once, thrée or four times. Mr. Hood dined with us several times, once or twice he slept in a house in the garden. She appeared to pay no attention to him but that of common civility to an intimate acquaintance. I remember the Princess sitting to Mr. Lawrence for her picture at Blackheath and in London ; I have left her at his house in town with him. I was never in her Royal Highness's confidence, but she has always been kind and good natured to me. She never mentioned Captain Manby particularly to me. I remember her being blooded the day Lady Sheffield's child was christened, not several times that I recollect, nor any other time, nor believe she was in the habit of being blooded twice a year. The Princess at one time appeared to like Lady Douglas ; Sir John came frequently ; Sir Sydney Smith visited about the same time with the Douglasses ; I have seen Sir Sydney there very late in the evening, but not alone with the Princess ; I have no reason to suspect he had a key of the Park-gate ; I never heard of any body being found wandering about at Blackheath. I have heard of somebody being found wandering about late at night at Mount Edgecumbe, when the Princess was there. I heard that two women and a man were seen crossing the hall. The Princess saw a great deal of company at Mount Edgecumbe. Sir Richard Strachan was reported to have spoken freely of the Princess. I did not hear that he had offered a rudeness to her person. She told me she had heard he had spoken disrespectfully of her, and therefore, I believe, wrote to him by Sir Samuel Hood.

(Signed)

HESTER LISLE.

Sworn before us, in Downing-  
street, this 3d day of July,  
1806.

(Signed)

ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH.

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 (No. 28.)

SIR FRANCIS MILLMAN TO THE LORD CHANCELLOR.

MY LORD,—Before your arrival in Downing-street, last night, I bespoke the indulgence of the Lords of

his Majesty's Council, for inaccuracy as to dates, respecting my attendance at Blackheath before 1803. Having only notice in the forenoon of an examination, I could not prepare myself for it, to any period previous to that year, and I now hasten as fast as the examination of my papers will permit, to correct an error, into which I fell, in stating to their Lordships that I attended her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales in the spring of 1802, and that I then met his Royal Highness the late Duke of Gloucester at Blackheath.

It was in the spring of 1801, and not of 1802; that after attending her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales for ten or twelve days, I had the honour of seeing the Duke of Gloucester at her house. I have the honour to be, with the greatest respect, my dear Lord, your Lordship's most obliged and obedient humble servant,

(Signed) FRANCIS MILLMAN.

(No. 29.)

Earl Cholmondeley, sworn July 16th, 1806.

I HAVE seen the Princess of Wales write frequently, and I think I am perfectly acquainted with her manner of writing.

A letter produced to his Lordship marked (A).

This letter is not of the Princess's hand-writing.

A paper produced to his Lordship, marked (B) with a kind of drawing with the names of Sir Sydney Smith and Lady Douglas.

This paper appears to me to be written in a disguised hand. Some of the letters remarkably resemble the Princess's writing; but because of the disguise I cannot say whether it be or be not her Royal Highness's writing.

On the cover being shewn to his Lordship, also marked (B.) he gave the same answer.

His Lordship was also shewn the cover marked (C.) to which his Lordship answered, I do not see the same resemblance to the Princess's writing in this paper.

CHOLMONDELEY.

Sworn before us, July 16th, 1806.      ERSKINE, SPENCER, GRENVILLE.  
(A true Copy, JOHN BECKET.)

Here the examinations closed, and the four Commissioners made the following report thereon :

(No. 30.)

#### COPY OF A REPORT

Made in 1806, by the four Commissioners appointed by the King, viz. : Lord Erskine, Chancellor; Lord Grenville, First Lord of the Treasury; Lord Spencer, Secretary of State; Lord Ellenborough, Chief Justice of the King's Bench; to examine into the conduct of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales,

“ MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

“ YOUR Majesty having been graciously pleased by an instrument under your Majesty’s Sign Manual, a copy of which is annexed to this Report, to authorise, empower, and direct us to inquire into the truth of certain written declarations touching the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, an Abstract of which had been laid before your Majesty, and to examine upon oath, such persons as we should see fit, touching and concerning the same, and to report to your Majesty the result of such examinations;—we have, in dutiful obedience to your Majesty’s commands, proceeded to examine the several witnesses, the copies of whose depositions we have hereunto annexed; and in further execution of the said commands, we now most respectfully submit to your Majesty the report of these examinations as it has appeared to us: but we beg leave at the same time, humbly to refer your Majesty for more complete information to the examinations themselves, in order to correct any error of judgment into which we may have unintentionally fallen, with respect to any of this business. On a reference to the above-mentioned declarations as the necessary foundation of all our proceedings, we found that they consisted in certain statements which had been laid before his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales; that these statements, not only imputed to her Royal Highness great impropriety, and indecency of behaviour, but expressly asserted, partly on the ground of certain alleged declarations from the Princess’s own mouth, and partly on the personal observations of the informants, the following most important facts, viz. That her Royal Highness had been pregnant in the year 1802, in consequence of an illicit intercourse, and that she had in the same year been secretly delivered of a male child, which child had ever since that period been brought up by her Royal Highness in her own house, and under her immediate inspection.

“ These allegations thus made, had, as we found, been followed by declarations from other persons, who had not indeed spoken to the important facts of the pregnancy or delivery of her Royal Highness, but had stated other particulars in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so when connected with the assertions already mentioned. In the painful situation in which his Royal Highness was placed by these communications, we learnt that his Royal Highness had adopted the only course which could, in our judgment, with propriety be followed, when informations such as these had been thus confidently alleged, and particularly alleged, and particularly detailed, and had been in some degree supported by collateral evidence, applying to other points of the same nature (though going to a far less extent), one line could only be pursued. Every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and of concern for the public welfare, required that these particulars should not be withheld from your Majesty, to whom more particularly belonged the cognizance of a matter of State so nearly touching the honour of your Majesty's Royal Family, and by possibility affecting the succession of your Majesty's Crown. Your Majesty had been pleased, on your part, to view the subject in the same light. Considering it as a matter which in every respect demanded the most immediate investigation, your Majesty had thought fit to commit into our hands the duty of ascertaining, in the first instance, what degree of credit was due to the informations, and thereby enabling your Majesty to decide what further conduct to adopt concerning them. On this view, therefore, of the matters thus alleged, and of the course hitherto pursued upon them, we deemed it proper, in the first place, to examine those persons in whose declaration the occasion for this inquiry had originated; because, if they, on being examined on oath, had retracted or varied their assertions, all necessity of further investigation might possibly have been precluded. We accordingly first examined on oath the principal informants, Sir John Douglas and Charlotte his Wife, who both positively swore, the former to his having observed the fact of the pregnancy of her Royal Highness, and the latter to the all-important par-



ticulars contained in her former declaration, and above referred to. Their examinations are annexed to this Report, and are circumstantial and positive.

“ The most material of these allegations, into the truth of which we have been directed to inquire, being thus far supported by the oath of the parties from whom they had proceeded, we then felt it to be our duty to follow up the Inquiry by the examination of such other persons as we judged best able to afford us information as to the facts in question. We thought it beyond all doubt, that in the course of inquiry many particulars must be learnt, which would be necessarily conclusive on the truth or falsehood of these declarations: so many persons must have been witnesses to the appearance of an actual existing pregnancy: so many circumstances must have been attendant upon a real delivery: and difficulties so numerous and insurmountable must have been involved in any attempt to account for the infant in question as the child of another woman, if it had been in fact the child of the Princess, that we entertained a full and confident expectation of arriving at complete proof, either in the affirmative or negative, on this part of the subject.

“ This expectation was not disappointed. We are happy to declare our perfect conviction, that there is no foundation whatever for believing that the child now with the Princess of Wales is the child of her Royal Highness, or that she was delivered of any child in the year 1802; nor has any thing appeared to us which would warrant the belief that she was pregnant in that year, or at any other period within the compass of our inquiries. The identity of the child now with the Princess, its parents, age, the place and date of its birth, the time and circumstance of its being first taken under her Royal Highness's protection, are all established by such a concurrence both of positive and circumstantial evidence, as can in our judgment leave no question on this part of the subject. That child was, beyond all doubt, born in Brownlow-street Hospital on the 11th day of July, 1802, of the body of Sophia Austin, and was first brought to the Princess's house in the month of November following. Neither should we be more war-



ranted in expressing any doubt respecting the alleged pregnancy of the Princess, as stated in the original Declaration, a fact so fully contradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, it must in various ways be known, that we cannot think it entitled to the smallest credit. The testimonies on these two points are contained in the annexed Depositions and Letters. We have not partially abstracted in this Report, lest by any unintentional omission we might weaken their effect: but we humbly offer to your Majesty this our clear and unanimous judgment upon them, formed upon full deliberation, and pronounced without hesitation, on the result of the whole inquiry. We do not, however, feel ourselves at liberty, much as we should wish it, to close our Report here. Besides the allegations of the pregnancy and delivery of the Princess, those declarations, on the whole of which your Majesty has been pleased to command us to inquire and report, contain, as we have already remarked, other particulars respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness, such as must, especially considering her exalted rank and station, necessarily give occasion to very unfavourable interpretations. From the various depositions and proofs annexed to this Report, particularly from the examination of Robert Bidgood, William Cole, Frances Lloyd, and Mr. Lisle, your Majesty will perceive that several strong circumstances of this description have been positively sworn to by witnesses, who cannot, in our judgment, be suspected of any unfavourable bias, and whose veracity, in this respect, we have seen no ground to question.

On the precise bearing and effect of the facts thus appearing, it is not for us to decide; these we submit to your Majesty's wisdom; but we conceive it to be our duty to report on this part of the Inquiry, as distinctly as on the former facts,—that as on the one hand the facts of pregnancy and delivery are to our minds satisfactorily disproved; so on the other hand we think the circumstances to which we now refer, particularly those stated to have passed between her Royal Highness and Captain Manby, must be credited until they shall receive some decisive contradiction; and, if true, are justly

entitled to the most serious consideration. We cannot close this Report without humbly assuring your Majesty that it was on every account our anxious wish to have executed this delicate trust with as little publicity as the nature of the case would possibly allow; and we entreat your Majesty's permission to express our full persuasion, that if this wish has been disappointed, the failure is not imputable to any thing unnecessarily said or done by us, all which is most humbly submitted to your Majesty.

(Signed)      **ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE,  
ELLENBOROUGH.**

July 14, 1806.

(A true Copy)---I. BECKET.

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Early in the next year, the Enquiry being resumed, it produced the following :

**MINUTES OF THE CABINET, JAN. 25, 1807.**

**Downing Street, January 25, 1807.**

**PRESENT**

**The Lord CHANCELLOR,  
Lord PRESIDENT,  
Lord PRIVY SEAL,  
Earl SPENCER,  
Earl of MOIRA,  
Lord HENRY PETTY,  
Lord Viscount HOWICK,  
Lord GRENVILLE,  
Lord ELLENBOROUGH,  
Mr. Secretary WINDHAM,  
Mr. T. GRENVILLE.**

**“ Your Majesty's confidential servants have given the most diligent and attentive consideration to the matters**

on which your Majesty has been pleased to require their opinion and advice. They trust your Majesty will not think that any apology is necessary on their part, for the delay which has attended their deliberations, on a subject of such extreme importance, and which they have found to be of the greatest difficulty and embarrassment.

“They are fully convinced that it never can have been your Majesty’s intention to require from them, that they should lay before your Majesty a detailed and circumstantial examination and discussion of the various arguments and allegations contained in the letter submitted to your Majesty, by the Law Advisers of the Princess of Wales; and they beg leave, with all humility, to represent to your Majesty, that the laws and constitution of their country have not placed them in a situation in which they can conclusively pronounce on any question of guilt or innocence affecting any of your Majesty’s subjects, much less one of your Majesty’s Royal Family. They have, indeed, no power or authority whatever to enter on such a course of inquiry, as could alone lead to any final results of such a nature.

“The main question on which they had conceived themselves called upon by their duty to submit their advice to your Majesty, was this: whether the circumstances which had, by your Majesty’s commands, been brought before them, were of a nature to induce your Majesty to order any further steps to be taken upon them by your Majesty’s Government? And on this point they humbly submit to your Majesty, that the advice which they offered was clear and unequivocal. Your Majesty has since been pleased further to require that they should submit to your Majesty their opinions as to the answer to be given by your Majesty to the request contained in the Princess’s letter, and as to the manner in which that answer should be communicated to her Royal Highness.

“They have, therefore, in dutiful obedience to your Majesty’s commands, proceeded to reconsider the whole of the subject, in this new view of it; and, after much deliberation, they have agreed humbly to recommend to

your Majesty the draft of a message, which, if approved by your Majesty, they would humbly suggest your Majesty might send to her Royal Highness, through the Lord Chancellor.

“Having before humbly submitted to your Majesty their opinion that the facts of the case did not warrant their advising that any further steps should be taken upon it by your Majesty’s Government, they have not thought it necessary to advise your Majesty any longer to decline receiving the Princess into your Royal Presence. But the result of the whole case does, in their judgment, render it indispensable that your Majesty should, by a serious admonition, convey to her Royal Highness your Majesty’s expectation that her Royal Highness should be more circumspect in her future conduct; and they trust that in the terms in which they have advised that such admonition should be conveyed, your Majesty will not be of opinion, on a full consideration of the evidence and answer, that they can be considered as having at all exceeded the necessity of the case, as arising out of the last reference which your Majesty has been pleased to make to them.”

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#### MINUTE OF COUNCIL, APRIL 22, 1807.

##### PRESENT

The Lord Chancellor (ELDON)

The Lord President (CAMDEN)

The Lord Privy Seal (WESTMORELAND)

The Duke of PORTLAND

The Earl of CHATHAM

The Earl of BATHURST

Viscount CASTLEREAGH

Lord MULGRAVE

Mr. Secretary CANNING

Lord HAWKESBURY.

Your Majesty’s confidential servants have, in obedience to your Majesty’s commands, most attentively considered the original Charges and Report, the Minutes of



Evidence, and all the other papers submitted to the consideration of your Majesty, on the subject of those charges against her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.

“ In the stage in which this business is brought under their consideration, they do not feel themselves called upon to give any opinion as to the proceeding itself, or to the mode of investigation in which it has been thought proper to conduct it ; but , adverting to the advice which is stated by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales to have directed his conduct, your Majesty’s confidential servants are anxious to impress upon your Majesty their conviction, that his Royal Highness could not, under such advice, consistently with his public duty, have done otherwise than lay before your Majesty the Statement and Examinations which were submitted to him upon this subject.

“ After the most deliberate consideration, however, of the evidence which has been brought before the Commissioners, and of the previous examinations, as well as of the answer and observations which have been submitted to your Majesty upon them, they feel it necessary to declare their decided concurrence in the clear and unanimous opinion of the Commissioners, confirmed by that of all your Majesty’s late confidential servants, that the two main charges alleged against her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, of pregnancy and delivery, are completely disproved ; and they further submit to your Majesty, their unanimous opinion, that all the other particulars of conduct, brought in accusation against her Royal Highness, to which the character of criminality can be ascribed, are either satisfactorily contradicted, or rest upon evidence of such a nature, and which was given under such circumstances, as render it, in the judgment of your Majesty’s confidential servants, undeserving of credit.

“ Your Majesty’s confidential servants, therefore, concurring in that part of the opinion of your late servants, as stated in their minute of the 25th of January, that there is no longer any necessity for your Majesty being advised to decline receiving the Princess into your Royal



entitled to the most serious consideration. We cannot close this Report without humbly assuring your Majesty that it was on every account our anxious wish to have executed this delicate trust with as little publicity as the nature of the case would possibly allow; and we entreat your Majesty's permission to express our full persuasion, that if this wish has been disappointed, the failure is not imputable to any thing unnecessarily said or done by us, all which is most humbly submitted to your Majesty.

(Signed)      **ERSKINE,  
SPENCER,  
GRENVILLE.  
ELLENBOROUGH.**

July 14, 1806.

(A true Copy)---I. BECKET.

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Blackheath, August 12, 1806.

Sire,

WITH the deepest feelings of gratitude to your Majesty, I take the first opportunity to acknowledge having received, as yesterday only, the Report from the Lords Commissioners, which was dated from the 14th of July. It was brought by Lord Erskine's footman, directed to the Princess of Wales; besides a note enclosed, the contents of which were, that Lord Erskine sent the evidences and report by commands of his Majesty. I had reason to flatter myself that the Lords Commissioners would not have given in the report, before they had been properly informed of various circumstances, which must for a feeling, and delicate-minded woman, be very unpleasant to have spread, without having the means to exculpate herself. But I can in the face of the Almighty assure your Majesty, that your daughter-in-law is innocent, and her conduct unquestionable; free from all the indecours, and improprieties, which are imputed to her at present.

by the Lords Commissioners, upon the evidence of persons, who speak as falsely as Sir John and Lady Douglas themselves. Your Majesty can be sure that I shall be anxious to give the most solemn denial in my power to all the scandalous stories of Bidgood and Colè; to make my conduct be cleared in the most satisfactory way for the tranquillity of your Majesty, for the honour of your illustrious family, and the gratification of your afflicted daughter-in-law. In the mean time I can safely trust your Majesty's gracious justice to recollect, that the whole of the evidence on which the Commissioners have given credit to the infamous stories charged against me, was taken behind my back, without my having any opportunity to contradict or explain any thing, or even to point out those persons who might have been called, to prove the little credit which was due to some of the witnesses, from their connection with Sir John and Lady Douglas; and the absolute falsehood of parts of the evidence, which could have been completely contradicted. Oh! gracious King, I now look for that happy moment, when I may be allowed to appear again before your Majesty's eyes, and receive once more the assurance from your Majesty's own mouth, that I have your gracious protection; and that you will not discard me from your friendship, of which your Majesty has been so condescending to give me so many marks of kindness; and which must be my only support, and my only consolation, in this country. I remain with sentiments of the highest esteem, veneration, and unfeigned attachment,

Sire,

Your Majesty's most dutiful, submissive, and  
humble Daughter-in-law and Subject,

(Signed)

CAROLINE.

To the King.

Montague House, Aug. 17th, 1806.

The Princess of Wales desires the Lord Chancellor to present her humble duty to the King, and to lay before his Majesty the accompanying letter and papers. The Princess makes this communication by his Lordship's hands, because it relates to the papers with which she has been furnished through his Lordship by his Majesty's commands.

To the Lord Chancellor.

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Aug. 17th, 1806.

SIRE,

UPON receiving the copy of the report, made to your Majesty, by the Commissioners appointed to enquire into certain charges against my conduct, I lost no time, in returning to your Majesty, my heartfelt thanks, for your Majesty's goodness in commanding that copy to be communicated to me.

I wanted no adviser, but my own heart, to express my gratitude for the kindness and protection which I have uniformly received from your Majesty. I needed no caution or reserve, in expressing my confident reliance, that that kindness and protection would not be withdrawn from me, on this trying occasion; and that your Majesty's justice would not suffer your mind to be affected, to my disadvantage, by any part of a report, founded upon partial evidence, taken in my absence, upon charges, not yet communicated to me, until your Majesty had heard, what might be alleged in my behalf, in answer to it. But your Majesty will not be surprised nor displeased, that I, a woman, a stranger to the laws and usages of your Majesty's kingdom, under charges,

aimed, originally, at my life and honour, should hesitate to determine, in what manner I ought to act, even under the present circumstances, with respect to such accusations, without the assistance of advice in which I could confide. And I have had submitted to me the following observations, respecting the copies of the papers with which I have been furnished. And I humbly solicit from your Majesty's gracious condescension and justice a compliance with the requests which arise out of them.

In the first place, it has been observed to me, that these copies of the report, and of the accompanying papers, have come unauthenticated by the signature of any person, high or low, whose veracity, or even accuracy, is pledged for their correctness, or to whom resort might be had, if it should be necessary, hereafter, to establish, that these papers are correct copies of the originals. I am far from insinuating that the want of such attestations was intentional. No doubt it was omitted through inadvertence; but its importance is particularly confirmed by the state, in which, the copy of Mrs. Lisle's examination has been transmitted to me. For in the third page of that examination there have been two erasures; on one of which some words have been subsequently introduced, apparently in a different hand writing from the body of the examination; and the passage as it stands, is probably incorrect, because the phrase is unintelligible. And this occurs in an important part of her examination.

The humble, but earnest request, which I have to make to your Majesty, which is suggested by this observation, is, that your Majesty would be graciously pleased to direct, that the report, and the papers which accompany it, and which, for that purpose, I venture to transmit to your Majesty with this letter, may be examined, and then returned to me, authenticated as correct, under the signature of some person, who having attested their accuracy, may be able to prove it.

In the second place, it has been observed to me, that the Report proceeds, by reference to certain written declarations, which the Commissioners describe as the necessary foundation of all their proceedings, and which

contain, as I presume, the charge or information against my conduct. Yet copies of these written declarations have not been given to me. They are described indeed, in the report, as consisting in certain statements, respecting my conduct, imputing not only, gross impropriety of behaviour, but expressly asserting facts of the most confirmed, and abandoned criminality, for which, if true, my life might be forfeited. These are stated to have been followed by declarations from other persons, who, though not speaking to the same facts, had related other particulars, in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so, as connected with the assertions already mentioned.

On this, it is observed to me, that it is most important that I should know the extent, and the particulars of the charges or informations against me, and by what accusers they have been made; whether I am answering the charges of one set of accusers, or more. Whether the authors of the original declarations, who may be collected from the Report to be Sir John and Lady Douglas, are my only accusers; and the declarations which are said to have followed, are the declarations of persons adduced as witnesses by Sir John and Lady Douglas to confirm their accusation; or whether such declarations are the charges of persons, who have made themselves also, the authors of distinct accusations against me.

The requests, which, I humbly hope, your Majesty will think reasonable and just to grant, and which are suggested by these further observations are,

*First*, That your Majesty would be graciously pleased to direct, that I should be furnished with copies of these declarations: and, if they are rightly described, in the Report, as the necessary foundation of all the proceedings of the Commissioners, your Majesty could not, I am persuaded, but have graciously intended, in directing that I should be furnished with a copy of the Report, that I should also see this essential part of the proceeding, the foundation on which it rests.

*Secondly*, That I may be informed whether I have



one or more, and how many accusers ; and who they are ; as the weight and credit of the accusation cannot but be much affected by the quarter from whence it originates.

*Thirdly*, That I may be informed of the time when the declarations were made. For the weight and credit of the accusation must, also, be much affected by the length of time, which my accusers may have been contented to have been the silent depositories of those heavy matters of guilt, and charge, and

*Lastly*, That your Majesty's goodness will secure to me a speedy return of these papers, accompanied, I trust, with the further information which I have solicited ; but at all events a speedy return of them. And your Majesty will see, that it is not without reason, that I make this last request, when your Majesty is informed, that, though the Report appears to have been made upon the 14th of July, yet it was not sent to me, till the 11th of the present month. A similar delay, I should, of all things, deplore. For it is with reluctance, that I yield to those suggestions, which have induced me to lay, these my humble requests, before your Majesty, since they must, at all events, in some degree, delay the arrival of that moment, to which I look forward with so earnest and eager an impatience ; when I confidently feel, I shall completely satisfy your Majesty, that the whole of these charges are alike unfounded ; and are all parts of the same conspiracy against me. Your Majesty, so satisfied, will, I can have no doubt, be as anxious as myself, to secure to me that redress, which, the laws of your kingdom (administering under your Majesty's just dispensation, equal protection and justice, to every description of your Majesty's subjects,) are prepared to afford to those who are so deeply injured as I have been. That I have in this case the strongest claim to your Majesty's justice, I am confident I shall prove : but I cannot, as I am advised, so satisfactorily establish that claim, till your Majesty's goodness shall have directed me to be furnished with an authentic statement of the actual charges against me, and that addi-

tional information, which it is the object of this letter most humbly, yet earnestly to implore,

I am,

SIRE,

Your Majesty's most dutiful, submissive,

And Humble Daughter-in-law.

*Montague House.*

(Signed)

C. P.

*To the King.*

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Aug. 20th, 1806.

THE Lord Chancellor has the honour to return to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the box; as he received it this morning from his Majesty. It contains the papers he formerly sent to her Royal Highness, and which he sends as they are, thinking that it may be in the mean time most agreeable to her Royal Highness.

The reason of their not having been authenticated by the Lord Chancellor, was, that he received them as copies from Earl Spencer, who was in possession of the originals; and he could not therefore, with propriety, do so, not having himself compared them; but her Royal Highness may depend upon having other copies sent to her, which have been duly examined and certified to be so.

The box will be delivered to one of her Royal Highnesses pages, in waiting, by the principal officer attendant upon the Lord Chancellor, and he trusts he shall find full credit, with her Royal Highness, that in sending a servant formerly with the papers, the moment he received them (no messenger being in waiting, and the officers who attend him, being detained by their duties in court,) he could not be supposed to have intended any possible disrespect, which he is incapable of shewing to any lady, but most especially to any member of his Majesty's Royal Family.

*To her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.*

*Lincoln's Inn Fields, Aug. 24th, 1806.*

HIS Majesty has been pleased to transmit to me the letter which he has received from your Royal Highness, dated the 17th instant ; and to direct that I should communicate the same to the Lords Commissioners who had been commanded by his Majesty to report to his Majesty on the matters therein referred to ; and I have now received his Majesty's further commands, in consequence of that letter, to acquaint your Royal Highness, that when I transmitted to your Royal Highness, by the King's commands, and under my signature, the copies of official papers, which had been laid before his Majesty, those papers were judged thereby duly authenticated, according to the usual course and forms of office ; and sufficiently so, for the purposes, for which his Majesty had been graciously pleased to direct them to be communicated to your Royal Highness.

That, nevertheless, there does not appear to be any reason for his Majesty's declining a compliance with the request which your Royal Highness has been advised to make, that those copies should, after being examined with the originals, be attested by some person to be named for that purpose : and that, if your Royal Highness will do me the honour to transmit them to me, they shall be examined and attested accordingly, after correcting any errors, that may have occurred in the copying.

His Majesty has further authorized me to acquaint your Royal Highness, that he is graciously pleased, on your Royal Highness's request, to consent, that copies of the written declarations referred to in the Report of the Lords Commissioners, should be transmitted to your Royal Highness, and that the same will be transmitted, accordingly so soon as they can be transcribed.

(Signed)

ERSKINE, C.

The Lord Chancellor has the honour to add to the above official communication that his purse-bearer respectfully waits her Royal Highness's commands, in

case it should be her Royal Highness's pleasure to return the papers by him.

*Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.*

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*Lincoln's Inn Fields, Aug. 29th, 1806.*

THE Lord Chancellor has the honour to transmit, to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the papers (being the original Declarations on which the Inquiry proceeded) desired by her Royal Highness, just as he received them a few minutes ago from Earl Spencer, with the note accompanying them.

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*Aug. 31st, 1806.*

HER Royal Highness the Princess of Wales acquaints the Lord Chancellor, that the gentleman with whom her Royal Highness advises, and who had possession of the copies of the official papers communicated to her Royal Highness by the Lord Chancellor, returned from the country late yesterday evening. Upon the subject of transmitting these papers to the Lord Chancellor, for the purpose of their being examined and authenticated, and then returned to her Royal Highness, he states, that in consequence of the Lord Chancellor's assurance, contained in his note of the 20th instant, that her Royal Highness might depend upon having *other* copies sent to her, which had been duly examined, and certified to be so; he has relied upon being able to refer to those already sent, and therefore it would be inconvenient to part with them at present; and her Royal Highness therefore hopes, that the Lord Chancellor will procure for her the other authenticated copies, which his Lordship promised in his note of the 20th inst.

With respect to the copies already sent, being, as the Lord Chancellor expresses it, in his letter of the

24th inst. "judged to be duly authenticated according to the usual course and forms of office, and sufficiently so for the purpose for which his Majesty had been graciously pleased to direct them to be communicated to his Royal Highness, because they were transmitted to her, by the King's commands, and under his Lordship's signature"—Her Royal Highness could never have wished for a more authentic attestation, if she had conceived that they were authenticated under such signature. But she could not think that the mere signature of his Lordship on the outside of the envelope which contained them, could afford any authenticity to the thirty papers which that envelope contained; or could, in any manner, identify any of those papers, as having been contained in that envelope. And she had felt herself confirmed in that opinion, by his Lordship's saying, in his note of the 20th inst. "that the reason of their not having been authenticated by the Lord Chancellor was, that he received them as copies from Earl Spencer, who was in possession of the originals, *and he could not therefore with propriety do so, not having himself compared them.*"

Her Royal Highness takes this opportunity of acknowledging the receipt of the declarations referred to in the Commissioners' Report.

*To the Lord Chancellor.*

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*Lincoln's Inn Fields, Sept. 2nd, 1806.*

The Lord Chancellor has taken the earliest opportunity in his power, of complying with the wishes of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales. He made the promise of other copies, without any communication, with the other Commissioners, wholly from a desire, to shew every kind of respect and accommodation to Her Royal Highness, in any thing consistent with his duty, and, not at all, from any idea that the papers, as originally sent, (though there might be errors in the



copying), were not sufficiently authenticated. An opinion which he is obliged to say he is not removed from; nevertheless, the Lord Chancellor has a pleasure in conforming to Her Royal Highness's wishes, and has the honour to inclose the attested copies of the Depositions, as he has received them from Earl Spencer.

*To her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.*

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TO THE KING.

SIRE,—Impressed, with the deepest sentiments of gratitude, for the countenance and protection, which I have hitherto uniformly received from your Majesty, I approach you, with a heart undismayed, upon this occasion, so awful and momentous to my character, my honour, and my happiness. I should indeed, (under charges such as have now been brought against me,) prove myself undeserving of the continuance of that countenance and protection, and altogether unworthy of the high station, which I hold in your Majesty's illustrious family, if I sought for any partiality, for any indulgence, for any thing *more* than what is due to me in justice. My entire confidence in your Majesty's virtues assures me that I cannot meet with *less*.

The situation, which I have been so happy as to hold in your Majesty's good opinion and esteem; my station in your Majesty's august family; my life, my honour, and, through mine, the honour of your Majesty's family have been attacked. Sir John and Lady Douglas have attempted to support a direct and precise charge, by which they have dared to impute to me, the enormous guilt of High Treason, committed in the foul crime of Adultery. In this charge, the extravagance of their malice has defeated itself. The Report of the Lords Commissioners, acting under your Majesty's warrant, has most fully cleared me of that charge. But there remain imputations, strangely sanctioned, and countenanced by that Report, on which I

cannot remain silent, without incurring the most fatal consequences to my honour and character. For it states to your Majesty, that "The circumstances detailed against me must be credited, till they are decisively contradicted."

To contradict, with as much decision as the contradiction of an accused can convey; to expose the injustice and malice of my enemies; to shew the utter impossibility of giving credit to their testimony; and to vindicate my own innocence, will be the objects, Sire, of this letter. In the course of my pursuing these objects, I shall have much to complain of, in the substance of the Proceeding itself, and much in the manner of conducting it. That any of these charges should, ever, have been entertained, upon testimony so little worthy of belief, which betrayed, in every sentence, the malice in which it originated; that, even if they were entertained at all, your Majesty should have been advised to pass by the ordinary legal modes of Inquiry into such high crimes, and to refer them to a Commission, open to all the objection, which I shall have to state to such a mode of Inquiry; that the Commissioners, after having negatived the principal charge of substantive crime, should have entertained considerations of matters that amounted to no legal offence, and which were adduced, not as substantive charges in themselves, but as matters in support of the principal accusation; That through the pressure and weight of their official occupations, they did not, perhaps, could not, bestow that attention on the case, which, if given to it, must have enabled them to detect the villainy and falsehood of my accusers, and their foul conspiracy against me; and must have preserved my character from the weighty imputation which the authority of the Commissioners, has, for a time, cast upon it; but, above all, that they should, upon this *ex parte* examination, without hearing one word that I could urge, have reported to your Majesty an opinion on these matters, so prejudicial to my honour, and from which I can have no appeal, to the laws of the country, (because the charges, constituting no legal offence,

cannot be made the ground of a judicial inquiry;)—These and many other circumstances, connected with the length of the Proceeding, which have cruelly aggravated, to my feelings, the pain necessarily attendant upon this Inquiry, I shall not be able to refrain from stating, and urging, as matters of serious lamentation at least, if not of well-grounded complaint.

In commenting upon any part of the circumstances, which have occurred in the course of this Inquiry, whatever observations I may be compelled to make upon any of them, I trust, I never shall forget what is due to officers in high station, and employment, under your Majesty. No apology, therefore, can be required for any reserve in my expressions towards them. But if, in vindicating my innocence against the injustice and malice of my enemies, I should appear to your Majesty not to express myself, with all the warmth and indignation, which innocence, so foully calumniated, must feel, your Majesty will, I trust, not attribute my forbearance to any insensibility to the grievous injuries, I have sustained; but will graciously be pleased to ascribe it to the restraint I have imposed upon myself, lest in endeavouring to describe in just terms the motives, the conduct, the perjury, and all the foul circumstances, which characterise and establish the malice of my accusers, I might use language, which, though not unjustly applied to them, might be improper to be used, by me, to any body, or unfit to be employed, by any body, humbly, respectfully, and dutifully addressing your Majesty.

That a fit opportunity has occurred for laying open my heart to your Majesty, perhaps, I shall, hereafter, have no reason to lament. For more than two years, I had been informed, that, upon the presumption of some misconduct in me, my behaviour had been made the subject of investigation, and my neighbours and servants had been examined concerning it. And for some time I had received mysterious and indistinct intimations, that some great mischief was meditated towards me. And, in all the circumstances of my very peculiar situation, it will not be thought strange, that

however conscious I was, that I had no just cause of fear, I should yet feel some uneasiness on this account. With surprise certainly (because the first tidings were of a kind to excite surprize,) but without alarm, I received the intelligence, that, for some reason, a formal investigation of some parts of my conduct had been advised, and had actually taken place. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, on the 7th of June, announced it to me. He announced to me, the Princess of Wales, in the first communication made to me, with respect to this proceeding, the near approach of two attornies (one of them, I since find, the solicitor employed by Sir John Douglas), claiming to enter my dwelling, with a warrant, to take away one half of my household, for immediate examination upon a charge against myself. Of the nature of that charge, I was then uninformed. It now appears, it was the charge of High Treason, committed in the infamous crime of adultery. His Royal Highness, I am sure, will do me the justice to represent to your Majesty, that I betrayed no fear, that I manifested no symptoms of conscious guilt, that I sought no excuses to prepare, or to tutor, my servants for the examination which they were to undergo. The only request which I made to His Royal Highness was, that he would have the goodness to remain with me till my servants were gone; that he might bear witness, that I had no conversation with them before they went. In truth, Sire, my anxieties, under a knowledge, that some serious mischief was planning against me, and while I was ignorant of its quality and extent, had been so great that I could not but rejoice at an event, which seemed to promise me an early opportunity of ascertaining what the malice of my enemies intended against me.

It has not been, indeed, without impatience the most painful, that I have passed the interval, which has since elapsed. When once it was not only known to me, but to the world (for it was known to the world) that Inquiry of the gravest nature had been instituted into my conduct, I looked to the conclusion, with all the eagerness that could belong to an absolute conviction, that

my innocence, and my honour, to the disgrace and confusion of my accusers, would be established; and that the groundless malice, and injustice of the whole charge would be manifested to the world, as widely as the calumny had been circulated. I knew that the result of an *ex parte* inquiry, from its very nature, could not, unless it fully asserted my entire innocence, be in any degree just. And I had taught myself most firmly to believe, that it was *utterly impossible*, that any opinion, which could, in the smallest degree, work a prejudice to my honour and character, could ever be expressed in any terms, by any persons, in a Report upon a solemn formal Inquiry, and more especially to your Majesty, without my having some notice, and some opportunity of being heard. And I was convinced, that, if the Proceeding allowed me, before an opinion was expressed, the ordinary means, which accused persons have, of vindicating their honour and their innocence, my honour and my innocence must, in any opinion, which could then be expressed, be fully vindicated, and effectually established. What then, Sire, must have been my astonishment, and my dismay, when I saw, that notwithstanding the principal accusation was found to be utterly false, yet some of the witnesses to those charges which were brought in support of the principal accusation; witnesses, whom, any person, interested to have protected my character, would easily have shewn, out of their own mouths, to be utterly unworthy of credit, and confederates in foul conspiracy with my false accusers, are reported to be “free from all suspicion of unfavourable bias;” their veracity, “in the judgment of the Commissioners, not to be questioned; and their infamous stories, and insinuations against me, to be “such as deserve the most serious consideration, and as must be credited till decisively contradicted.”

The Inquiry, after I thus had notice of it, continued for above \* two months. I venture not to complain, as

\* The time that the Inquiry was pending, after this notice of it, is here confounded with the time which elapsed before the Report was communicated to Her Royal Highness. The Inquiry itself only lasted to the 14th or 16th of July, which is but between five and six weeks from the 7th of June.



if it had been unnecessarily protracted. The important duties, and official avocations of the Noble Lords, appointed to carry it on, may naturally account for, and excuse, some delay. But however excusable it may have been, your Majesty will easily conceive the pain and anxiety, which this interval of suspense has occasioned; and your Majesty will not be surprised, if I further represent, that I have found a great aggravation of my painful sufferings, in the delay which occurred in communicating the Report to me. For though it is dated on the 14 July, I did not receive it, notwithstanding your Majesty's gracious commands, till the 11th of August. It was due unquestionably to your Majesty, that the result of an Inquiry, commanded by your Majesty, upon advice, which had been offered, touching matters of the highest import, should be first, and immediately, communicated to you. The respect and honour, due to the Prince of Wales, the interest which he must necessarily have taken in this Inquiry, combined to make it indisputably fit, that the result should be forthwith also stated to His Royal Highness. I complain not therefore that it was, too early, communicated to any one: I complain only, (and I complain most seriously, for I felt it most severely) of the delay in its communication to me.

Rumour had informed the world, that the Report had been early communicated to your Majesty, and to His Royal Highness. I did not receive the benefit, intended for me by your Majesty's gracious command, till a month after the Report was signed. But the same rumour had represented me, to my infinite prejudice, as in possession of the Report, during that month; and the malice of those, who wished to stain my honour, has not failed to suggest all that malice could infer, from its remaining in that possession, so long unnoticed. May I be permitted to say, that, if the Report acquits me, my innocence entitled me to receive from those, to whom your Majesty's commands had been given, an immediate notification of the fact that it did acquit me? That, if it condemned me, the weight of such a sentence should not have been left to settle, in any mind, much less

upon your Majesty's, for a month, before I could even begin to prepare an answer, which, when begun, could not speedily be concluded; and that, if the Report could be represented as both acquitting and condemning me, the reasons, which suggested the propriety of an early communication in each of the former cases, combined to make it proper and necessary in the latter.

And why all consideration of my feelings was thus cruelly neglected; why was I kept upon the rack, during all this time, ignorant of the result of a charge, which affected my honour and my life; and why, especially in a case, where such grave matters were to continue to be "credited, to the prejudice of my honour," till they were "decidedly contradicted," the means of knowing, what it was, that I must, at least, endeavour to contradict, were withholden from me, a single unnecessary hour, I know not, and I will not trust myself, in the attempt, to conjecture.

On the 11th of August, however, I at length received from the Lord Chancellor, a packet containing copies of the Warrant or Commission authorizing the Inquiry; of the Report; and of the Examinations on which the Report was founded. And your Majesty will be graciously pleased to recollect, that on the 13th I returned my grateful thanks to your Majesty, for having ordered these papers to be sent to me.

Your Majesty will readily imagine that, upon a subject of such importance, I could not venture to trust only to my own advice; and those with whom I advised, suggested, that the written Declarations or Charges, upon which the Inquiry had proceeded, and which the Commissioners refer to in their Report, and represent to be the essential foundation of the whole proceeding, did not accompany the Examinations and Report; and also that the papers themselves were not authenticated. I therefore, ventured to address your Majesty, upon these supposed defects in the communication, and humbly requested that the copies of the papers, which I then returned, might, after being examined, and authenticated, be again transmitted to me; and that I might also be furnished with copies of the written Declara-

tions, so referred to, in the Report. And my humble thanks are due for your Majesty's gracious compliance, with my request. On the 29th of August, I received, in consequence, the attested copies of those Declarations, and of a Narrative of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent; and a few days after, on the 3d of September, the attested copies of the Examinations which were taken before the Commissioners.

The Papers which I have received are as follow :

\* The Narrative of his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, dated 27th of December, 1805.

A Copy of the written Declaration of Sir John and Lady Douglas, dated December 3, 1805.

A Paper containing the written Declarations, or Examinations, of the persons hereafter enumerated; The title to these Papers is,

“ For the purpose of confirming the Statement made by Lady Douglas, of the circumstances mentioned in her Narrative, The following Examinations have been taken, and which have been signed by the several persons who have been examined.”

Two of Sarah Lampert; one, dated Cheltenham, 8th January, 1806; and the other, 29th March, 1806.

One of William Lampert, baker, 114, Cheltenham, apparently of the same date with the last of Sarah Lampert's.

Four of William Cole, dated respectively, 11th January, 14th January, 30th January, and 23d February, 1806.

One of Robert Bidgood, dated Temple, 4th April, 1806.

One of Sarah Bidgood, dated Temple, 23d April, 1806; and

“ Frances Lloyd, dated Temple, 12th May,

rs and Documents which accompanied

1806.	No.	
29 May,	1.	The King's Warrant or Commission.
1 June,	2.	Deposition of Lady Douglas.
1	3.	Sir John Douglas.
6	4.	Robert Bidgood.
6	5.	W. Cole.
7	6.	Frances Lloyd.
7	7.	Mary Ann Wilson.
7	8.	Samuel Roberts.
7	9.	Thomas Stikeman.
7	10.	J. Sicard.
7	11.	Charlotte Sander.
7	12.	Sophia Austin.
20	13.	Letter from Lord Spencer to Lord Gwydir.
21	14.	Lord Gwydir to Lord Spencer.
21	15.	Lady Willoughby to Lord Spencer.
23	16.	Extract from Register of Brownlow Street Hospital.
23	17.	Deposition of Elizabeth Gosden.
23	18.	Betty Townley.
25	19.	Thomas Edmeades.
25	20.	Samuel G. Mills.
27	21.	Harriet Fitzgerald.
1 July,	22.	Letter from Lord Spencer to Lord Gwydir.
3	23.	Lord Gwydir to Lord Spencer.
3	24.	Queries of Lady Willoughby and Answers.
3	25.	Further Deposition of R. Bidgood.
3	26.	Deposition of Sir Francis Milman.
3	27.	Mrs. Lisle.
4	28.	Letter from Sir Francis Milman to the Lord Chancellor.
16	29.	Deposition of Lord Cholmondeley.
14	30.	The Report.

By the Copy, which I have received, of the Com-

mission, or Warrant, under which the Inquiry has been prosecuted, it appears to be an instrument under your Majesty's Sign Manual, not counter-signed, not under any Seal.—It recites, that an abstract of certain written Declarations touching my conduct, (without specifying by whom those Declarations were made, or the nature of the matters, touching which they had been made, or even by whom the Abstract had been prepared,) had been laid before your Majesty; into the truth of which it purports to authorise the four noble Peers, who are named in it, to inquire and to examine upon oath, such persons as they think fit; and to report to your Majesty the result of their Examination. By referring to the written Declarations, it appears that they contain allegations against me, amounting to the charge of High Treason, and also other matters, which, if understood to be, as they seem to have been acted and reported upon, by the Commissioners, not as evidence confirmatory (as they are expressed to be in their title) of the principal charge, but as distinct and substantive subjects of examination, cannot, as I am advised, be represented as in law, amounting to crimes. How most of the Declarations referred to were collected, by whom, at whose solicitation, under what sanction, and before what persons, magistrates or others, they were made, does not appear. By the title indeed, which all the written Declarations, except Sir John and Lady Douglas's bear; viz. "That they had been taken for the purpose of confirming Lady Douglas's Statement," it may be collected that they had been made by her, or at least by Sir John Douglas's procurement. And the concluding passage of one of them, I mean the fourth declaration of W. Cole, strengthens this opinion, as it represents Sir John Douglas, accompanied by his Solicitor, Mr. Lowten, to have gone down as far as Cheltenham for the examination of two of the witnesses whose declarations are there stated. I am, however, at a loss to know, at this moment, whom I am to consider, or whom I could legally fix, as my false accuser.—From the circumstance last mentioned, it might be inferred, that Sir John and Lady Douglas, or one of them, is that accuser. But Lady Douglas, in her written



Declaration, so far from representing the information which she then gives, as moving voluntarily from herself, expressly states that she gives it under the direct command of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and the papers leave me without information, from whom any communication to the Prince originated, which induced him to give such commands.

Upon the question, how far the advice is agreeable to law, under which it was recommended to your Majesty, to issue this Warrant or Commission, not countersigned, nor under Seal, and without any of your Majesty's advisers, therefore, being, on the face of it, responsible for its issuing, I am not competent to determine. And undoubtedly, considering that the two high legal authorities, the Lord Chancellor, and the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, consented to act under it, it is with the greatest doubt and diffidence, that I can bring myself to express any suspicion of its illegality. But if it be, as I am given to understand it is, open to question, whether, consistently with law, your Majesty should have been advised, to command, by this warrant or commission, persons, (not to act in any known character, as Secretaries of State, as Privy Counsellors, as Magistrates otherwise empowered; but to act, as Commissioners, and under the sole authority of such warrant, to inquire (without any authority to hear and determine any thing upon the subject of those Inquiries,) into the known crime of High Treason, under the sanction of oaths, to be administered by them, as such commissioners, and to report the result thereof to your Majesty. If, I say, there can be any question upon the legality of such a Warrant or Commission, the extreme hardship, with which, it has operated upon me, the extreme prejudice, which it has done to my character, and to which, such a proceeding must ever expose the person who is the object of it, obliges me, till I am fully convinced of its legality, to forbear from acknowledging its authority; and, with all humility and deference to your Majesty, to protest against it, and against all the proceedings under it.

If this, indeed, were matter of mere form, I should be ashamed to urge it. But the actual hardships and

prejudice, which I have suffered by this proceeding, are most obvious. For, upon the principal charge against me, the commissioners have most satisfactorily, and "without the least hesitation," for such is their expression, reported their opinion of its falsehood. Sir John and Lady Douglas, therefore, who have sworn to its truth, have been guilty of the plainest falsehood; yet upon the supposition of the illegality of this Commission their falsehood must, as I am informed, go unpunished. Upon that supposition, the want of legal authority in the Commissioners to inquire and to administer an oath, will render it impossible to give to this falsehood the character of Perjury. But this is by no means the circumstance which I feel the most severely. Beyond the vindicating of my own character, and the consideration of providing for my future security, I can assure your Majesty, that the punishment of Sir John and Lady Douglas would afford me no satisfaction. It is not, therefore, with regard to that part of the charge, which is negatived, but with respect to those, which are sanctioned by the Report, those, which, not aiming at my life, exhaust themselves upon my character, and which the Commissioners have, in some measure, sanctioned by their Report, that I have the greatest reason to complain. Had the Report sanctioned the principal charge, constituting a known legal crime, my innocence would have emboldened me, at all risque, (and to more, no person has ever been exposed from the malice and falsehood of accusers) to have demanded that trial, which could legally determine upon the truth or falsehood of such charge. Though I should even then indeed have had some cause to complain, because I should have gone to that trial, under the prejudice, necessarily raised against me, by that Report; yet in a proceeding before the just, open, and known tribunals of your Majesty's kingdom, I should have had a safe appeal from the result of an *ex parte* investigation. An investigation which has exposed me to all the hardships of a *secret* Inquiry, without giving me the benefit of *secrecy*; and to all the severe consequences of a public investigation, in point of injury to my character, without affording me any of its substantial benefits in

point of security. But the charges, which the Commissioners do sanction by their Report, describing them, with a mysterious obscurity and indefinite generality, constitute, as I am told, no legal crime. They are described as "instances of great impropriety and indecency of behaviour," which must "occasion the most unfavourable interpretations," and they are reported to your Majesty, and they are stated to be, "circumstances which must be credited till they are decisively contradicted."

From this opinion, this judgment of the Commissioners, bearing so hard upon my character; (and that a female character, how delicate, and how easily to be affected by the breath of calumny your Majesty well knows) I can have no appeal. For, as the charges constitute no legal crimes, they cannot be the subjects of any legal trial. I can call for no trial. I can therefore have no appeal; I can look for no acquittal. Yet this opinion, or this judgment, from which I can have no appeal, has been pronounced against me upon mere *ex parte* investigation.

This hardship, Sire, I am told to ascribe to the nature of the proceeding under this Warrant or Commission; For had the Inquiry been entered into before your Majesty's Privy Council, or before any magistrates, authorised by law as such, to inquire into the existence of treason, the known course of proceeding before that council, or such magistrates, the known extent of their jurisdiction over crimes, and not over the proprieties of behaviour, would have preserved me from the possibility of having matters made the subjects of inquiry which had in law no substantive criminal character, and from the extreme hardship of having my reputation injured by calumny altogether unfounded, but rendered at once more safe to my enemies, and more injurious to me, by being uttered, in the course of a proceeding, assuming the grave semblance of legal form. And it is by the nature of this proceeding, (which could alone have countenanced or admitted of this licentious latitude of inquiry, into the proprieties of behaviour in private life, with which no court, no magistrate, no public law has

any authority to interfere,) that I have been deprived of the benefit of that entire and unqualified acquittal and discharge from this accusation, to which the utter and proved falsehood of the accusation itself so justly entitled me.

I trust therefore that your Majesty will see that if this proceeding is not one to which, by the known laws of your Majesty's kingdom, I ought to be subject, that it is no cold formal objection which leads me to protest against it.

I am ready to acknowledge, Sire, from the consequences which might arise to the public, from such misconduct as have been falsely imputed to me, that my honour and virtue are of more importance to the state than those of other women. That my conduct therefore may be fitly subjected, when necessary, to a severer scrutiny. But it cannot follow, because my character is of more importance, that it may therefore be attacked with more impunity. And as I know, that this mischief has been pending over my head for more than two years, that private examinations of my neighbours' servants, and of my own, have, at times, during that interval, been taken, for the purpose of establishing charges against me, not indeed by the instrumentality of Sir John and Lady Douglas alone, but by the sanction, and in the presence of The Earl of Moira (as your Majesty will perceive by the deposition of Jonathan Partridge which I subjoin\*;) and as I know also, and make appear to your Majesty likewise by the same means, that declarations of persons of unquestionable credit, respecting my conduct, attesting my innocence, and directly falsifying a most important circumstance respecting my supposed pregnancy, mentioned in the declarations, on which the Inquiry was instituted; as I know, I say, that those declarations, so favourable to me, appear to my infinite prejudice, not to have been communicated to your Majesty, when that Inquiry was commanded; and as I know not how soon nor how often proceedings against me may be meditated by my enemies, I take leave to express my humble trust, that, be-

\* See the depositions at the end of this letter.

fore any other proceedings may be had against me, (desirable as it may have been thought, that the Inquiry should have been of the nature, which has, in this instance, obtained,) your Majesty would be graciously pleased to require to be advised, whether my guilt, if I were guilty, could not be as effectually discovered and punished, and my honour and innocence, if innocent, be more effectually secured and established by other more known and regular modes of proceeding.

Having therefore, Sire, upon these grave reasons, ventured to submit, I trust without offence, these considerations upon the nature of the Commission and the proceedings under it, I will now proceed to observe upon the Report, and the Examinations; and, with your Majesty's permission, I will go through the whole matter, in that course which has been observed by the Report itself, and which an examination of the important matters that it contains, in the order in which it states them, will naturally suggest.

The Report, after referring to the Commission or Warrant under which their Lordships were acting, after stating that they had proceeded to examine the several witnesses, whose depositions they annexed to their Report, proceeds to state the effect of the written declarations, which the Commissioners considered as the essential foundation of the whole proceeding. "That they were statements which had been laid before his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness the Princess; that these statements not only imputed to her Royal Highness, great impropriety and indecency of behaviour, but expressly asserted, partly on the ground of certain alledged declarations from the Princess's own mouth, and partly on the personal observation of the informants, the following most important facts; viz. that her Royal Highness had been pregnant in the year 1802, in consequence of an illicit intercourse; and that she had in the same year, been secretly delivered of a male child; which child had ever since that period been brought up by her Royal Highness in her own house, and under her immediate inspection. These allegations thus made, had,



as the Commissioners found, been followed by declarations from other persons, who had not indeed spoken to the important facts of the pregnancy or delivery of her Royal Highness, but had related other particulars, in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so, when connected with the assertions already mentioned. The Report then states, that, in the painful situation, in which his Royal Highness was placed by these declarations, they learnt that he had adopted the only course which could, in their judgment, with propriety be followed, when informations such as these had been thus confidently alledged and particularly detailed, and had in some degree been supported by collateral evidence, applying to other points of the same nature (though going to a far less extent,) one line could only be pursued."

"Every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and of concern for the public welfare required that these particulars should not be withheld from your Majesty, to whom more particularly belonged the cognizance of a matter of state, so nearly touching the honour of your Majesty's Royal Family, and by possibility affecting the succession to your Majesty's crown."

The Commissioners, therefore, your Majesty observes, going, they must permit me to say, a little out of their way, begin their Report, by expressing a clear and decided opinion, that his Royal Highness was properly advised (for your Majesty will undoubtedly conclude, that, upon a subject of this importance, his Royal Highness could not but have acted by the advice of others), in referring this complaint to your Majesty, for the purpose of its undergoing the investigation which has followed. And unquestionably, if the charge referred to in this Report, as made by Sir John and Lady Douglas, had been presented under circumstances, in which any reasonable degree of credit could be given to them, or even if they had not been presented in such a manner, as to impeach the credit of the informers, and to bear internal evidence of their own incredibility, I should be the last person who would be disposed to dispute the wisdom of the advice which led to make them the subject of the gravest and most anxious Inquiry.

And your Majesty, acting upon a mere abstract of the declarations, which was all, that by the recital of the warrant, appears to have been laid before your Majesty, undoubtedly could not but direct an Inquiry concerning my conduct. For though I have not been furnished with that abstract, yet I must presume that it described the criminatory contents of these declarations, much in the same manner, as they are stated in the Report. And the criminatory parts of these declarations, if viewed without reference to those traces of malice and resentment, with which the declarations of Sir John and Lady Douglas abound; if abstracted from all these circumstances, which shew the extreme improbability of the story, the length of time, which my accuser had kept my alledged guilt concealed, the contradictions observable in the declarations of the other witnesses, all which, I submit to your Majesty, are to an extent to cast the greatest discredit upon the truth of these declarations;—abstracted, I say, from these circumstances, the criminatory parts of them were unquestionably such, as to have placed your Majesty under the necessity of directing some Inquiry concerning them. But that those, who had the opportunity of reading the long and malevolent narration of Sir John and Lady Douglas, should not have hesitated before they gave any credit to it, is matter of the greatest astonishment to me.

The improbability of the story would of itself, I should have imagined (unless they believed me to be as insane as Lady Douglas insinuates) have been sufficient to have staggered the belief of any unprejudiced mind. For to believe that story, they were to begin with believing that a person guilty of so foul a crime, so highly penal, so fatal to her honour, her station, and her life, should gratuitously, and uselessly, have confessed it. Such a person under the necessity of concealing her pregnancy, might have been indispensably obliged to confide her secret with those, to whom she was to look for assistance in concealing its consequences. But Lady Douglas, by her own account, was informed by me of this fact, for no purpose whatever. She makes me, as those who read her declarations cannot fail to have ob-

served, state to her, that she should, on no account, be entrusted with any part of the management by which the birth was to be concealed. They were to believe also, that, anxious as I must have been to have concealed the birth of any such child, I had determined to bring it up in my own house ; and what would exceed, as I should imagine, the extent of all human credulity, that I had determined to suckle it myself : that I had laid my plan, if discovered, to have imposed it upon his Royal Highness as his child. Nay, they were to believe, that I had stated, and that Lady Douglas had believed the statement to be true, that I had in fact attempted to suckle it, and only gave up that part of my plan, because it made me nervous, and was too much for my health. And, after all this, they were then to believe, that having made Lady Douglas, thus unnecessarily, the confidant, of this most important and dangerous secret ; having thus put my character and my life in her hands, I sought an occasion, wantonly, and without provocation, from the mere fickleness and wilfulness of my own mind, to quarrel with her, to insult her openly and violently in my own house, to endeavour to ruin her reputation ; to expose her in infamous and indecent drawings enclosed in letters to her husband. The letters indeed are represented to have been anonymous, but, though anonymous, they are stated to have been written with my own hand, so undisguised in penmanship and style, that every one who had the least acquaintance with either, could not fail to discover them, and (as if it were through fear, lest it should not be sufficiently plain from whom they came) that I had sealed them with a seal, which I had shortly before used on an occasion of writing to her husband. All this they were to believe upon the declaration of a person, who, with all that loyalty and attachment which she expresses to your Majesty, and his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, with all her obligation to the whole Royal Family, (to whom she expresses herself to be bound by ties of respectful regard and attachment which nothing can ever break :) with all her dread of the mischievous consequences to the country, which might arise, from the disputed succession to the Crown, on the pretensions of

an illegitimate child of mine, nevertheless continued, after this supposed avowal of my infamy, and my crime, after my supposed acknowledgment of the birth of this child, which was to occasion all this mischief, to preserve, for near a twelvemonth, her intimacy and apparent friendship with me. Nay, for two years more, after that intimacy had ceased, after that friendship had been broken off, by my alledged misbehaviour to her, continued still faithful to my secret, and never disclosed it till (as her declaration states it) “The Princess of Wales recommenced a fresh torrent of outrage against Sir John; and Sir John discovered that she was attempting to undermine his and Lady Douglas’s character.”

Those, then, who had the opportunity of seeing the whole of this Narrative, having had their jealousy awakened by these circumstances to the improbability of the story, and to the discredit of the informer, when they came to observe, how maliciously every circumstance that imagination could suggest, as most calculated to make a woman contemptible and odious, was scraped and heaped up together in this Narrative, must surely have had their eyes opened to the motives of my accusers, and their minds cautioned against giving too easy a credit to their accusation, when they found my conversation to be represented as most loose and infamous; my mind uninstructed, and unwilling to learn; my language, with regard to your Majesty, and the whole of your Royal Family, foully disrespectful and offensive; and all my manners and habits of life most disgusting, I should have flattered myself, that I could not have been, in character, so wholly unknown to them, but that they must have observed a spirit, and a colouring at least in this representation, which must have proved much more against the disposition and character of the informers, and the quality of their information, than against the person who was the object of their charge. But when, in addition to all this, the Declaration states, that I had, with respect to my unfortunate and calamitous separation from his Royal Highness, stated that I had acknowledged myself to have been the aggressor, from the beginning, and myself alone; and when it fur-

ther states, that if any other woman had so played and sported with her husband's comfort and popularity, she would have been turned out of his house, or left alone in it, and have deservedly forfeited *her place in society*; and further still, when, alledging that I had once been desirous of procuring a separation from his Royal Highness, and had pressed former Chancellors to accomplish this purpose, it flippantly adds, that "The Chancellor may now perhaps be able to grant her request." The malicious object of the whole must surely have been most obvious.

For supposing these facts to have been all true; supposing this infamous and libellous description of my character had been nothing but a correct and faithful representation of my vices and my infamy, would it not have been natural to have asked why they were introduced into this Declaration? What effect could they have had upon the charge of crime, and of adultery, which it was intended to establish? If it was only in execution of a painful duty, which a sense of loyalty to your Majesty, and obedience to the commands of the Prince of Wales, at length reluctantly drew from them, why all this malicious accompaniment? "His Royal Highness," indeed, they say, "desired that they would communicate the whole circumstances of their acquaintance with me, from the day they first spoke with me till the present time; a full detail of all that passed during our acquaintance," and "how they became known to me, it appearing to his Royal Highness, from the representation of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, that his Majesty's dearest interests, and those of this country, were very deeply interested in the question," and "that he particularly commanded them to be very circumstantial in their detail respecting all they might know relative to the child that I affected to adopt."

But from the whole of this it is sufficiently apparent, that the particularity of this detail was required, by his Royal Highness, in respect of matters connected with that question, in which the dearest interests of your Majesty and this country were involved; and not of circumstances which could have no bearing on those in-



terests. If it had been therefore true, as I most solemnly protest it is not, that I had in the confidence of private conversation, so far forgot all sense of decency, loyalty, and gratitude, as to have expressed myself with that disrespect of your Majesty which is imputed to me;—If I had been what I trust those who have lived with me, or ever have partaken of my society, would not confirm, of a mind so uninformed and uncultivated, without education or talents, or without any desire of improving myself, incapable of employment, of a temper so furious and violent, as altogether to form a character, which no one could bear to live with, who had the means of living elsewhere;—What possible progress would all this make towards proving that I was guilty of adultery? These, and such like insinuations, as false as they are malicious, could never have proved crime in me, however manifestly they might display the malice of my accusers.

Must it not, then, have occurred to any one, who had seen the whole of this Narrative, if the motive of my accusers was, as they represent it, merely that of good patriots, of attached and loyal subjects, bound, in execution of a painful duty, imposed upon them by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to disclose, in detail, all the facts which could establish my guilt, that these circumstances never would have made a part of their detail? But on the other hand, if their object was to traduce me;—if, falsely attributing to his Royal Highness, sentiments which could belong to no generous bosom, but measuring his nature by their own, they thought, vainly and wickedly, to ingratiate themselves with him, by being the instruments of accomplishing my ruin;—if aiming at depriving me of my rank and station, or of driving me from this country, they determined to bring forward a charge of Treason against me, which, though they knew in their consciences it was false, yet they might hope would serve at least as a cover, and a pretence for such an imputation upon my character, as, rendering my life intolerable in this country, might drive me to seek a refuge in another; if, the better to effectuate this purpose, they had represented

all my misfortunes as my faults, and *my* faults alone, drawn an odious and disgusting picture of me, to extinguish every sentiment of pity and compassion, which, in the generosity, not only of your Majesty's royal bosom, and of the members of your Royal Family, but of all the inhabitants of your kingdom, might arise to commiserate the unfortunate situation of a stranger, persecuted under a charge originating in their malice;—if, for this, they flung out, that I had justly forfeited my station in society, and that a separation from my husband was what I myself had once wished, and what the Chancellor might now perhaps procure for me;—or, if, in short, their object was to obtain my condemnation by prejudice, inflamed by falsehood, which never could be obtained by justice informed by truth, then the whole texture of the declaration is consistent, and it is well contrived and executed for its purpose. But it is strange, that its purpose should have escaped the detection of intelligent and impartial minds. There was enough at least to have made them pause before they gave such a degree of credit to informations of this description, as to have made them the foundations of so important and decisive a step, as that of advising them to be laid before your Majesty.

And, indeed, such seems to have been the effect which this declaration at first produced. Because if it had been believed, the only thing to have been done (according to the judgment of the Commissioners,) would have been to have laid it immediately before your Majesty, to whom, upon every principle of duty, the communication was due. But the declaration was made on the 3rd of December, in the last year, and the communication was not made to your Majesty till the very end of May. And that interval appears to have been employed in collecting those other additional declarations, which are referred to in the Report, and which your Majesty has likewise been pleased, by your gracious commands, to have communicated to me.

These additional declarations do not, I submit, appear to furnish much additional reason for believing the incredible story. They were taken indeed “for the pur-

pose," (for they are so described, this is the title which is prefixed to them in the authentic copies, with which I have been furnished,) "for the purpose of confirming the statement made by Lady Douglas of the circumstances mentioned in her narrative," and they are the examinations of two persons, who appear to have formerly lived in the family of Sir John and Lady Douglas, and of several servants of my own; they are filled with the hearsay details of other servants' declarations. And one of them, W. Cole, seems to have been examined over and over again. No less than four of his examinations are given, and some of them evidently refer to other examinations of his, which are not given at all.

These, I submit to your Majesty, are rendered, from this marked circumstance, particularly undeserving of credit; because, in the only instance in which the hearsay statement, related to one servant, was followed by the examination of the other, who was stated to have made it, (I mean an instance in which Cole relates what he had heard said by F. Lloyd,) F. Lloyd does not appear to have said any such thing, or even to have heard what she is by him related to have said, and she relates the fact that she really did hear, stripped of all the particulars with which Cole had coloured it, and which alone made it in any degree deserving to be mentioned. Besides this, the parents of the child, which is ascribed to me by Lady Douglas, are plainly pointed out, and a clue is afforded, by which, if followed, it would have been as easy to have ascertained that that child was no child of mine, (if indeed it ever had been seriously believed to be so,) and to have proved whose child it was, before the appointment of the Commissioners, as it had been found to be afterwards.

So far, therefore, from concurring with the Commissioners in approving the advice, under which his Royal Highness had acted, I conceive it to have been at least cruel and inconsiderate, to have advised the transmission of such a charge to your Majesty, till they had exhausted all the means which private inquiry could have afforded, to ascertain its falsehood or its truth.

And when it appears that it was not thought necessary, upon the first statement of it, as the Commissioners seem to have imagined, forthwith to transmit to your Majesty; but it was retained for near six months, from the beginning of December till near the end of May; what is due to myself obliges me to state, that if there had but been in that interval, half the industry employed, to remove suspicions, which was exerted to raise them, there would never have existed a necessity for troubling your Majesty with this charge at all. I beg to be understood as imputing this solely to the advice given to his Royal Highness. He must, of necessity, have left the detail and the determination upon this business to others. And it is evident to me, from what I now know, that his Royal Highness was not fairly dealt with; that material information was obtained, to disprove part of the case against me, which, not appearing in the declarations that were transmitted to your Majesty, I conclude was never communicated to his Royal Highness.

Feeling, Sir, strongly, that I have much to complain of, that this foul charge should have been so readily credited to my great prejudice, as to occasion that advice to be given which recommended the transmission of it to your Majesty, (who, once formally in possession of it, could not fail to subject it to some inquiry.) I have dwelt perhaps, at a tedious length, in disputing the propriety of the Commissioners' judgment, in thus approving the course which was pursued. And, looking to the event, and all the circumstances connected with it, perhaps I have reason to rejoice that the Inquiry has taken place. For if three years concealment of my supposed crime could not impeach the credit of my accusers, three times that period might perhaps be thought to have left that credit still unimpaired. And, had the false charge been delayed till death had taken away the real parents of the child which Lady Douglas charges to be mine; if time had deprived me of those servants and attendants who have been able so fully to disprove the fact of my alledged pregnancy, I know not where I could have found the means of disproving

facts and charges, so falsely, so confidently, and positively sworn to, as those to which Lady Douglas has attested.

Following, as I proposed, the course taken in the Report, I next come to that part of it, to which unquestionably I must recur with the greatest satisfaction; because it is that part, which so completely absolves me of every possible suspicion, upon the two material charges of pregnancy and child-birth.

The Commissioners state in their Report, that they began by examining "on oath the two principal informants, Sir John and Lady Douglas, who both positively swore, the former to his having observed the fact of pregnancy, and the latter to all the important particulars contained in her former declaration, and above referred to. Their examinations are annexed to the Report, and are circumstantial and positive." The most material of "the allegations, into the truth of which they had been directed to inquire, being thus far supported by the oath of the parties from whom they had proceeded," they state, "that they felt it their duty to follow up the Inquiry by the examination of such other persons as they judged best able to afford them information as to the facts in question." "We thought it," they say, "beyond all doubt, that in this course of inquiry many particulars must be learnt which would be *necessarily conclusive* on the truth or falsehood of these declarations. So many persons must have been witnesses to the appearances of an actual existing pregnancy, so many circumstances must have been attendant upon a real delivery, and difficulties so numerous and insurmountable must have been involved in any attempt to account for the infant in question as the child of another woman, if it had been in fact the child of the Princess; that we entertained a full and confident expectation of arriving at complete proof, either in the affirmative or negative, on this part of the subject." "This expectation," they proceeded to state, "was not disappointed. We are happy to declare to your Majesty, our perfect conviction that there is no foundation whatever for believing that the child now with the



Princess is the child of her Royal Highness, or that she was delivered of any child in the year 1802; nor has any thing appeared to us which would warrant the belief that she was pregnant in that year, or at any other period within the compass of our inquiries." They then proceed to refer to the circumstantial evidence, by which they state, that it was proved that the child was, beyond all doubt, born in Brownlow-street Hospital, on the 11th July, 1802, of the body of Sophia Austin, and brought to my house in the month of November following.—“ Neither should we,” they add, “ be more warranted in expressing any doubt respecting the alledged pregnancy of the Princess, as stated in the original declarations; a fact so fully contradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, it must, in various ways, have been known, that we cannot think it entitled to the smallest credit.” Then, after stating that they have annexed the depositions from which they have collected these opinions, they add—“ We humbly offer to your Majesty our clear and unanimous judgment upon them, formed on full deliberation, and pronounced without hesitation, on the result of the whole Inquiry.”

These two most important facts, therefore, which are charged against me, being so fully, and satisfactorily, disposed of, by the unanimous and clear judgment of the Commissioners; being so fully and completely disproved by the evidence which the Commissioners collected, I might, perhaps, in your Majesty’s judgment, appear well justified in passing them by without any observation of mine. But though the observations which I shall make shall be very few, yet I cannot forbear just dwelling upon this part of the case, for a few minutes; because, if I do not much deceive myself, upon every principle which can govern the human mind, in the investigation of the truth of any charge, the fate of this part of the accusation must have decisive weight upon the determination of the remainder. I therefore must beg to remark, that Sir John Douglas swears to my having appeared, some time after our acquaintance had commenced, to be with child, and that one day I leaned on the sofa, and put my hand upon my

stomach, and said, " Sir John, I shall never be Queen of England ;" and he said, " not if you don't deserve," and I seemed angry at first.

This conversation, I apprehend, if it has the least relation to the subject on which Sir John was examined, must be given for the purpose of insinuating that I made an allusion to my pregnancy, as if there was a sort of understanding between him and me upon the subject, and that he made me angry, by an expression which implied, that what I alluded to would forfeit my right to be Queen of England.—If this is not the meaning which Sir John intends to be annexed to this conversation, I am perfectly at a loss to conceive what he can intend to convey. Whether at any time, when I may have felt myself unwell, I may have used the expression which he here imputes to me, my memory will not enable me, with the least degree of certainty, to state. The words themselves seem to me to be perfectly innocent; and the action of laying my hand upon my breast, if occasioned by any sense of internal pain at the moment, neither unnatural, nor, as it appears to me, in any way censurable. But that I could have used these words, intending to convey to Sir John Douglas the meaning which I suppose him to insinuate, surpasses all human credulity to believe. I could not, however, forbear to notice this passage in Sir John's examination, because it must serve to demonstrate to your Majesty how words, in themselves most innocent, are endeavoured to be tortured, by being brought into the context with his opinion of my pregnancy, to convey a meaning most contrary to that, which I could by possibility have intended to convey, but which it was necessary that he should impute to me, to give the better colour to this false accusation.

As to Sir John Douglas, however, when he swears to the appearances of my pregnancy, he possibly might be only mistaken. Not that mistake will excuse or diminish the guilt of so scandalous a falsehood upon oath. But for Lady Douglas there cannot be even such an excuse. Independent of all those extravagant confessions which she falsely represents me to have made, she

states, upon her own observation and knowledge, that I was pregnant in the year 1802. Now, in the habits of intercourse and intimacy, with which I certainly did live with her, at that time, she could not be mistaken as to that fact. It is impossible, therefore, that in swearing positively to that fact, which is so positively disproved, she can fail to appear to your Majesty to be wilfully and deliberately forsworn.

As to the conversations which she asserts to have passed between us, I am well aware, that those, who prefer her word to mine, will not be satisfied to disbelieve her upon my bare denial; nor, perhaps, upon the improbability and extravagance of the supposed conversations themselves. But as to the facts of pregnancy and delivery, which are proved to be false, in the words of the Report, "by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, they must in various ways have been known," no person living can doubt that the crime of adultery and treason, as proved by those facts, has been attempted to be fixed upon me, by the deliberate and wilful falsehood of this my most forward accuser. And when it is once established, as it is, that my pregnancy and delivery are all Sir John and Lady Douglas's invention, I should imagine that my confessions of a pregnancy which never existed; my confession of a delivery which never took place; my confession of having suckled a child which I never bore, will hardly be believed upon the credit of her testimony. The credit of Lady Douglas, therefore, being thus destroyed, I trust your Majesty will think that I ought to scorn to answer to any thing which her examination may contain, except so far as there may appear to be any additional and concurrent evidence to support it.

This brings me to the remaining part of the Report, which I read, I do assure your Majesty, with a degree of astonishment and surprise, that I know not how to express. How the Commissioners could, upon such evidence, from such witnesses, upon such an information, and in such an *ex parte* proceeding, before I had had the possibility of being heard, not only suffer themselves to form such an opinion, but to report it to your

Majesty, with all the weight and authority of their great names, I am perfectly at a loss to conceive. Their great official and judicial occupations, no doubt, prevented that full attention to the subject which it required. But I am not surely without just grounds of complaint, if they proceeded to pronounce an opinion upon my character, without all that consideration and attention, which the importance of it to the peace of your Majesty's mind, to the honour of your Royal Family, and the reputation of the Princess of Wales, seem indispensably to have demanded.

In the part of the Report already referred to, the particulars of the charge, exclusive of those two important facts, which have been so satisfactorily disposed of, are, as I have already observed, variously described by the Commissioners: as, "matters of great impropriety and indecency of behaviour;" as "other particulars in themselves extremely suspicious, and still more so, when connected with the assertions already mentioned;" and as "points of the same nature, though going to a much less extent." But they do not become the subject of particular attention in the Report, till after the Commissioners had concluded that part of it, in which they give so decisive an opinion against the truth of the charge upon the two material facts. They then proceed to state—"That they cannot close their Report there," much as they could wish it; that besides the allegations of the pregnancy and delivery of the Princess, those declarations on the whole of which your Majesty had required their Inquiry and Report, contain *other particulars respecting the conduct of her Royal Highness, such as must, especially considering her exalted rank and station, necessarily give occasion to very unfavourable interpretations.* That from various depositions and proofs annexed to their Report, *particularly from the examination of Robert Bidgood, W. Cole, F. Lloyd, and Mrs. Lisle, several strong circumstances of this description* have been positively sworn to, by witnesses, *who cannot, in the judgment of the Commissioners, be suspected of any unfavourable bias, and whose veracity,* **IN THIS RESPECT,** *they had seen no ground to question."*



They then state, that "on the precise bearing and effect of the facts, thus appearing, it is not for them to decide: these they submit to your Majesty's wisdom. But they conceive it to be their duty to report on this part of the Inquiry, as distinctly as on the former facts; that as, on the one hand, the facts of pregnancy and delivery are, in their minds, satisfactorily disproved, so on the other hand they think, *that the circumstances to which they now refer, particularly those stated to have passed between her Royal Highness and Captain Manby, must be credited until they shall receive some decisive contradiction, and, if true, are justly entitled to the most serious consideration.*"

Your Majesty will not fail to observe that the Commissioners have entered in the examination of *this part* of the case, and have reported upon it, not merely as evidence in confirmation of the charges of pregnancy and delivery which they have completely negatived and disposed of, but as containing substantive matters of charge in itself. That they consider it indeed as relating to points "of the same nature, but going to a much less extent," not therefore as constituting actual crime, but as amounting to "improprieties and indecencies of behaviour, aggravated by the exalted rank which I hold," as "occasioning unfavourable interpretations," and as "entitled to the most serious consideration." And when they also state that it is not for them to decide on their precise bearing and effect, I think I am justified in concluding that they could not class them under any known head of crime; as, in that case, upon their bearing and effect they would have been fully competent to have pronounced.

I have, to a degree, already stated to your Majesty the unprecedented hardship to which I conceive myself to have been exposed by this *ex parte* Inquiry into the decorum of my private conduct. I have already stated the prejudice done to my character by this recorded censure, from which I can have no appeal; and I press these considerations no further upon your Majesty, at pre-



sent, than to point out, in passing this part of the Report, the just foundations which it affords me for making the complaint.

Your Majesty will also, I am persuaded, not fail to remark the strange obscurity and reserve, the mysterious darkness, with which the Report here expresses itself; and every one must feel how this aggravates the severity and cruelty of the censure, by rendering it impossible distinctly and specifically to meet it. The Commissioners state indeed that some things are proved against me, which must be credited till they shall receive a decisive contradiction, but what those things are they do not state. They are "particulars and circumstances which, especially considering my exalted rank, must give occasion to the most unfavourable interpretations. There are several strong circumstances of this description;" "they are, if true, justly deserving of most serious consideration," and they "must be credited till decidedly contradicted." But what are these circumstances? What are these deeds without a name? Was there ever a charge so framed? Was ever any one put to answer any charge, and decidedly to contradict it, or submit to have it credited against him, which was conceived in such terms, without the means of ascertaining what these things are, except as conjecture may enable me to surmise, to what parts of the examinations of the four witnesses, on whom they particularly rely, they attach the importance and the weight which seem to them to justify these dark and ambiguous censures on my conduct? But such as they are, and whatever they may be, they must, your Majesty is told, be credited unless they are decidedly contradicted.

Circumstances, respecting Captain Manby, indeed are particularized; but referring to the depositions which apply to him, they contain much matter of opinion, of hearsay, of suspicion. Are these hearsays, are these opinions, are these suspicions, and conjectures of these witnesses, to be believed against me, unless decidedly contradicted? How can I decidedly contradict another person's opinion? I may reason against its justice, but how can I contradict it? Or how can I decidedly con-

tradict any thing which is not precisely specified, nor distinctly known to me?

Your Majesty will also observe that the Report states that it is not for the Commissioners to decide upon the bearing and effect of these facts; these are left for your Majesty's decision. But they add that, if true, they are justly entitled to the most serious consideration. I cannot, Sire, but collect from these passages an intimation that some further proceedings may be meditated. And perhaps, if I acted with perfect prudence, seeing how much reason I have to fear from the fabrications of falsehood, I ought to have waited till I knew what course, civil or criminal, your Majesty might be advised to pursue, before I offered any observations or answer. To this alternative however I am driven. I must either remain silent, and reserve my defence, leaving the imputation to operate most injuriously and fatally to my character; or I must, by entering into a defence against so extended a charge, expose myself with much greater hazard to any future attacks. But the fear of *possible* danger, to arise from the perverted interpretation of my answer, cannot induce me to asquiesce, under the *certain* mischief of the unjust censure and judgment which stands against me, as it were, recorded in this Report. I shall therefore, at whatever hazard, proceed to submit to your Majesty, in whose justice I have the most satisfactory reliance, my answer and my observations upon this part of the case.

And here, Sire, I cannot forbear again presuming to state to your Majesty, that it is not a little hard, that the Commissioners (who state in the beginning of their Report, that certain particulars, in themselves extremely suspicious, were, in the judgment which they had formed upon them, before they entered into the particulars of the Inquiry, rendered still more suspicious from being connected with the assertion of pregnancy and delivery, should have made no observation upon the degree in which that suspicion must be proportionably abated, when those assertions of pregnancy and delivery have been completely falsified and disproved; that they should make no remark upon the fact, that all

the witnesses, (with the exception of Mrs. Lisle,) on whom they specifically rely, were every one of them brought forward by the principal informers, for the purpose of supporting the false statement of Lady Douglas; that they are the witnesses therefore of persons whom, after the complete falsification of their charge, I am justified in describing as conspirators who have been detected, in supporting their conspiracy by their own perjury. And surely where a conspiracy, to fix a charge upon an individual, has been plainly detected, the witnesses of those who have been so detected in that conspiracy—witnesses that are brought forward to support this false charge,—cannot stand otherwise than considerably affected in their credit, by their connection with those who are detected in that conspiracy. But instead of pointing out this circumstance, as calling, at least for some degree of caution and reserve, in considering the testimony of these witnesses, the Report on the contrary, holds them up as worthy of particular credit, as witnesses, who, in the judgment of the Commissioners, cannot be suspected of unfavourable bias; whose veracity in that respect they have seen no ground to question; and who must be credited till they receive some decided contradiction.

Now, Sire, I feel the fullest confidence that I shall prove to your Majesty's most perfect satisfaction, that all of these witnesses (of course I still exclude Mrs. Lisle) are under the influence, and exhibit the symptoms of the most unfavourable bias;—that their veracity is in every respect to be doubted; and that they cannot, by any candid and attentive mind, be deemed worthy of the least degree of credit upon this charge, your Majesty will easily conceive, how great my surprise and astonishment must have been at this part of the Report. I am indeed a little at a loss to know, whether I understand the passage which I have cited from the Report. "The witnesses in the judgment of the Commissioners are not to be suspected of unfavourable bias, and their veracity *in that respect* they have seen no reason to question." What is meant by their having seen no reason to suspect their veracity *in that respect*? Do they

mean, what the qualification seems to imply, that they have seen reason to question it in other respects? Is it meant to be insinuated that they saw reason to question their veracity, not in respect of an unfavourable bias, but of a bias in my favour? I cannot impute to them such an insinuation, because I am satisfied that the Commissioners would never have intended to insinuate any thing so directly contrary to the truth.

The witnesses specifically pointed out, as thus particularly deserving of credit, are W. Cole, R. Bidgood, F. Lloyd, and Mrs. Lisle. With respect to Mrs. Lisle, I trust your Majesty will permit me to make my observations upon her examination, as distinctly and separately as I possibly can from the others. Because, as I ever had, and have now as much as ever, the most perfect respect for Mrs. Lisle, I would avoid the possibility of having it imagined that such observations as I shall be under the absolute necessity of making, upon the other witnesses, could be intended in any degree to be applied to her.

With respect to Cole, Bidgood, and Lloyd, they have all lived in their places for a long time; they had lived with his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales before he married, and were appointed by him to situations about me; Cole and Lloyd immediately upon my marriage, and Bidgood very shortly afterwards. I know not whether from this circumstance they may consider themselves as not owing that undivided duty and regard to me, which servants of my own appointment might possibly have felt; but if I knew nothing more of them than that they had consented to be voluntarily examined, for the purpose of supporting the statement of Lady Douglas on a charge so deeply affecting my honour, without communicating to me the fact of such examination, your Majesty would not, I am sure, be surprized to find, that I saw in that circumstance alone sufficient to raise *some* suspicions of an unfavourable bias. But when I find Cole particularly submitting to this secret and voluntary examination against me, no less than *four* times, and when I found during the pendency of this Inquiry before the Commissioners, that

one of them, R. Bidgood, was so far connected, and in league, with Sir John and Lady Douglas; as to have communication with the latter, I thought I saw the proof of such decided hostility and confederacy against me, that I felt obliged to order the discontinuance of his attendance at my house till further orders. Of the real bias of their minds, however, with respect to me, your Majesty will be better able to judge from the consideration of their evidence.

The imputations which I collect to be considered as cast upon me, by these several witnesses, are too great familiarity and intimacy with several gentlemen,—Sir Sidney Smith, Mr. Lawrence, Captain Manby, and I know not whether the same are not meant to be extended to Lord Hood, Mr. Chester, and Captain Moore.

With your Majesty's permission, therefore, I will examine the depositions of the witnesses, as they respect these several gentlemen, in their order, keeping the evidence, which is applicable to each case, as distinct from the others as I can.

And I will begin with those which respect Sir Sidney Smith, as he is the person first mentioned in the deposition of W. Cole.

W. Cole says, “ that Sir Sidney Smith first visited at Montague House in 1802 ; that he observed that the Princess was too familiar with Sir Sidney Smith. One day, he thinks in February, he (Cole) carried into the Blue Room to the Princess some sandwiches which she had ordered, and was surprised to see that Sir Sidney was there. He must have come in from the Park. If he had been let in from Blackheath he must have passed through the room in which he (Cole) was waiting. When he had left the sandwiches, he returned, after some time, into the room, and Sir Sidney Smith was sitting very close to the Princess on the sofa ; He (Cole) looked at her Royal Highness, she caught his eye, and saw that he noticed the manner in which they were sitting together, they appeared both a little confused.”

R. Bidgood says also, in his deposition on the 6th of June, (for he was examined twice) “ that it was early in 1802 that he first observed Sir Sidney Smith



come to Montague House. He used to stay very late at night; he had seen him early in the morning there; about ten or eleven o'clock. He was at Sir John Douglas's, and was in the habit as well as Sir John and Lady Douglas of dining, or having luncheon, or supping there every day. He saw Sir Sidney Smith one day in 1802 in the Blue Room, about 11 o'clock in the morning, which was full two hours before they expected ever to see company. He asked the servants why they did not let him know Sir Sidney Smith was there; the footman told him that they had let no person in. There was a private door to the Park, by which he might have come in if he had a key to it, and have got into the Blue Room without any of the servants perceiving him. And in his second deposition, taken on the 3d of July, he says he lived at Montague House when Sir Sidney came. Her (the Princess's) manner with him appeared very familiar; she appeared very attentive to him, but he did not suspect any thing further. Mrs. Lise says, that the Princess at one time appeared to like Sir John and Lady Douglas. "I have seen Sir Sidney Smith there very late in the evening, but not alone with the Princess. I have no reason to suspect he had a key of the Park gate; I never heard of any body being found wandering about at Blackheath."

Fanny Lloyd does not mention Sir Sidney Smith in her deposition.

Upon the whole of this evidence then, which is the whole that respects Sir Sidney Smith, in any of these depositions (except some particular passage in Cole's evidence, which are so important as to require very particular and distinct statement), I would request your Majesty to understand that, with respect to the fact of Sir Sidney Smith's visiting frequently at Montague House, both with Sir John and Lady Douglas, and without them; with respect to his being frequently there, at luncheon, dinner, and supper; and staying with the rest of the company till twelve, one o'clock, or even sometimes later, if these are some of the facts "which must give occasion to unfavourable interpretations, and must be credited till they are contradicted;"

they are facts, which I never can contradict, for they are perfectly true. And I trust it will imply the confession of no guilt, to admit, that Sir Sidney Smith's conversation, his account of the various and extraordinary events, and heroic achievements in which he had been concerned, amused and interested me; and the circumstance of his living so much with his friends, Sir John and Lady Douglas, in my neighbourhood on Blackheath, gave the opportunity of his increasing his acquaintance with me.

It happened also, that about this time I fitted up, as your Majesty may have observed, one of the rooms in my house after the fashion of a Turkish Tent. Sir Sidney furnished me with a pattern for it, in a drawing of the Tent of Murat Bey, which he had brought over with him from Egypt. And he taught me how to draw Egyptian Arabesques, which were necessary for the ornaments of the cieling; this may have occasioned, while that room was fitting up, several visits, and possibly some, though I do not recollect them, as early in the morning as Mr. Bidgood mentions. I believe also that it has happened more than once, that, walking with my ladies in the Park, we have met Sir Sidney Smith, and that he has come in, with us, through the gate from the Park. My ladies may have gone up to take off their cloaks, or to dress, and have left me alone with him: and, at some one of these times, it may very possibly have happened, that Mr. Cole and Mr. Bidgood may have seen him, when he has not come through the waiting-room, nor been let in by any of the footmen. But I solemnly declare to your Majesty, that I have not the least idea or belief that he ever had a key of the gate into the Park, or that he ever entered in or passed out at that gate, except in company with myself and my ladies. As for the circumstance of my permitting him to be in the room alone with me; if suffering a man to be so alone is evidence of guilt, from whence the Commissioners can draw any unfavourable inference, I must leave them to draw it. For I cannot deny that it has happened, and happened frequently; not only with Sir Sidney Smith, but with many, many

others ; gentlemen who have visited me ; tradesmen who have come to receive my orders ; masters whom I have had to instruct me, in painting, in music, in English, &c. that I have received them without any one being by. In short, I trust I am not confessing a crime, for unquestionably it is a truth, that I never had an idea that there was any thing wrong, or objectionable, in thus seeing men, in the morning, and I confidently believe your Majesty will see nothing in it, from which any guilt can be inferred. I feel certain that there is nothing immoral in the thing itself ; and I have always understood, that it was perfectly customary and usual for ladies of the first rank, and the first character, in the country, to receive the visits of gentlemen in a morning, though they might be themselves alone at the time. But, if, in the opinions and fashions of this country, there should be more impropriety ascribed to it, than what it ever entered into my mind to conceive, I hope your Majesty, and every candid mind, will make allowance for the different notions which my foreign education and foreign habits may have given me.

But whatever character may belong to this practice, it is not a practice which commenced after my leaving Carlton House. While there, and from my first arrival in this country, I was accustomed, with the knowledge of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, and without his ever having hinted to me the slightest disapprobation, to receive lessons from various masters, for my amusement, and improvement ; I was attended by them frequently, from 12 o'clock till five in the afternoon ;—Mr. Atwood for music, Mr. Gessadiere for English, Mr. Tourfronelli for painting, Mr. Tutoye for imitating marble, Mr. Elwes for the harp. I saw them all alone ; and indeed, if I were to see them at all, I could do no otherwise than see them alone. Miss Garth, who was then sub-governess to my daughter, lived, certainly, under the same roof with me, but she could not be spared from her duty and attendance on my daughter. I desired her sometimes to come down stairs, and read to me, during the time when I drew or painted, but my

Lord Cholmondeley informed me this could not be. I then requested that I might have one of my bed-chamber women to live constantly at Carlton House, that I might have her at call whenever I wanted her ; but I was answered that it was not customary, that the attendants of the Royal Family should live with them in town ; so that request could not be complied with. But, independent of this, I never conceived that it was offensive to the fashions and manners of the country to receive gentlemen who might call upon me in a morning, whether I had or had not any one with me ; and it never occurred to me to think that there was either impropriety or indecorum in it, at that time, nor in continuing the practice at Montague House. But this has been confined to morning visits, in no private apartments in my house, but in my drawing-room, where my ladies have at all times free access, and as they usually take their luncheon with me, except when they are engaged with visitors or pursuits of their own, it could but rarely occur that I could be left with any gentleman alone for any length of time, unless there were something, in the known and avowed business, which might occasion his waiting upon me, that would fully account for the circumstance.

I trust your Majesty will excuse the length at which I have dwelt upon this topic. I perceived, from the examinations, that it had been much inquired after, and I felt it necessary to represent it in its true light. And the candour of your Majesty's mind will, I am confident, suggest that those who are the least conscious of intending guilt, or the least suspicious of having it imputed to them : and therefore that they do not think it necessary to guard themselves at every turn, with witnesses to prove their innocence, fancying their character to be safe, as long as their conduct is innocent, and that guilt will not be imputed to them from actions quite indifferent.

The deposition however of Mr. Cole is not confined to my being alone with Sir Sidney Smith. The circumstances in which he observed us together he particularizes, and states his opinion. He introduces, indeed, the whole of the evidence by saying that I was too familiar with Sir Sidney Smith ; but as I trust I am not

yet so far degraded as to have my character decided by the opinion of Mr. Cole, I shall not comment upon that observation. He then proceeds to describe the scene which he observed on the day when he brought in the sandwiches, which I trust your Majesty did not fail to notice, *I had myself ordered to be brought in.* For there is an obvious insinuation that Sir Sidney must have come in through the Park, and that there was great impropriety in his being alone with me. And at least the witness's own story proves, whatever impropriety there might be, in this circumstance, that I was not conscious of it, nor meant to take advantage of his clandestine entry, from the Park, to conceal the fact from my servant's observation. For if I had such consciousness, or such meaning, I never could have ordered sandwiches to have been brought in, or any other act to have been done, which must have brought myself under the notice of my servants, while I continued in a situation, which I thought improper, and wished to conceal. Any of the circumstances of this visit, to which this part of deposition refers, my memory does not enable me in the least degree to particularize and recal. Mr. Cole may have seen me sitting on the same sofa with Sir Sidney Smith. Nay, I have no doubt he must have seen me, over and over again, not only with Sir S. Smith, but with other gentlemen, sitting upon the same sofa, and I trust your Majesty will feel it the hardest thing imaginable, that I should be called upon to account what corner of a sofa I sat upon four years ago, and how close Sir Sidney Smith was sitting to me. I can only solemnly aver to your Majesty, that my conscience supplies me with the fullest means of confidently assuring you, that I never permitted Sir Sidney Smith to sit on any sofa with me in any manner, which, in my own judgment was in the slightest degree offensive to the strictest propriety and decorum. In the judgment of many persons, perhaps, a Princess of Wales should at no time forget the elevation of her rank, or descend, in any degree, to the familiarities and intimacies of private life. Under any circumstances, this would be a hard condition to be annexed to her situation.



Under the circumstances, in which it has been my misfortune to have lost the necessary support to the dignity and station of a Princess of Wales, to have assumed and maintained an unbending dignity would have been impossible, and if possible, could hardly have been expected from me.

After these observations, Sire, I must now request your Majesty's attention to those written declarations which are mentioned in the Report, and which I shall never be able sufficiently to thank your Majesty for having condescended, in compliance with my earnest request, to order to be transmitted to me. From observations upon those declarations themselves, as well as upon comparing them with the depositions made before the Commissioners, your Majesty will see the strongest reason for discrediting the testimony of W. Cole, as well as others of these witnesses whose credit stands in the opinion of the Commissioners so unimpeachable. They supply important observations, even with respect to that part of Mr. Cole's evidence which I am now considering, though in no degree equal in importance to those which I shall afterwards have occasion to notice.

Your Majesty will please to observe, that there are no less than four different examinations, or declarations, of Mr. Cole. They are dated on the 11th, 14th, and 30th of January, and on the 23rd of February. In these four different declarations he twice mentions the circumstance of finding Sir Sidney Smith and myself on the sofa, and he mentions it not only in a different manner, at each of those times, but at both of them in a manner, which materially differs from his deposition before the Commissioners. In his declaration on the 11th of January he says, that he found us in so *familiar* a posture, as to *alarm* him very much, which he expressed by a *start back* and a look at the gentleman.

In that dated on the 22d February however (being asked, I suppose as to that which he had dared to assert, of the familiar posture which had alarmed him so much,) he says, "there was *nothing particular* in our dress, *position* of legs, or arms, that was extraordinary;

He thought it improper that a single gentleman should be sitting quite close to a married lady on the sofa, and from that situation, and *former observations* he thought the thing improper. In this second account, therefore, your Majesty perceives he was obliged to bring in his former observation to help out the statement, in order to account for his having been so shocked with what he saw, as to express his alarm by "starting back." But unfortunately he accounts for it, as it seems to me at least, by the very circumstance which would have induced him to have been less surprised, and consequently less startled by what he saw; for had his former observations been such as he insinuates, he would have been prepared the more to expect, and the less to be surprised at, what he pretends to have seen.

But your Majesty will observe, that in his deposition before the Commissioners (recollecting perhaps how awkwardly he had accounted for his starting in his former declaration) he drops his starting altogether. Instead of looking at the gentleman only, he looked at us both, that I caught his eye, and saw that he noticed the manner in which we were sitting, and instead of his own starting, or any description of the manner in which he exhibited his own feelings, we are represented as both appearing a *little confused*. Our *confusion* is a circumstance which, during his four declarations which he made before the appointment of the Commissioners, it never once occurred to him to recollect. And now he does recollect it, we appeared, he says, "a little confused."—A little confused!—The Princess of Wales detected in a situation such as to shock and alarm her servant, and so detected as to be sensible of her detection, and so conscious of the impropriety of the situation as to exhibit symptoms of confusion; would not her confusion have been extreme? would it have been so little as to have slipped the memory of the witness who observed it, during his first four declarations, and at last to be recalled to his recollection in such a manner as to be represented in the faint and feeble way in which he here describes it.

What weight your Majesty will ascribe to these dif-

ferences in the accounts given by this witness, I cannot pretend to say. But I am ready to confess that, probably, if there was nothing stronger of the same kind to be observed in other parts of his testimony, the inference which would be drawn from them would depend very much upon the opinion previously entertained of the witness. To me, who know many parts of his testimony to be absolutely false, and all the colouring given to it to be wholly from his own wicked and malicious invention, it appears plain, that these differences in his representations are the unsteady, awkward shuffles and prevarications of falsehood. To those, if there any such, who from preconceived prejudices in his favour, or from any other circumstances, think that his veracity is free from all suspicion, satisfactory means of reconciling them may possibly occur. But before I have left Mr. Cole's examinations, your Majesty will find that they will have much more to account for, and much more to reconcile.

Mr. Cole's examination before the Commissioners goes on thus: "A short time before this, one night about twelve o'clock, I saw a man go into the house from the Park, wrapt up in a great coat. I did not give any alarm, for the impression on my mind was, that it was not a thief." When I read this passage, Sire, I could hardly believe my eyes; when I found such a fact left in this dark state, without any further explanation, or without a trace in the examination of any attempt to get it further explained. How he got this impression on his mind, that this was not a thief? Whom he believed it to be? What part of the house he saw him enter? If the drawing-room, or any part which I usually occupy, who was there at the time? Whether I was there? Whether alone, or with my Ladies? or with other company? Whether he told any body of the circumstance at the time? or how long after? Whom he told? Whether any inquiries were made in consequence? These, and a thousand other questions, with a view to have penetrated into the mystery of this strange story, and to have tried the credit of this witness, would, I should have thought, have occurred to any one; but certainly must

have occurred to persons so experienced, and so able in examination of facts, and the trying of the credit of witnesses, as the two learned Lords unquestionably are, whom Your Majesty took care to have introduced into this Commission. They never could have permitted these unexplained, and unsifted, hints and insinuations to have had the weight and effect of proof. But unfortunately for me, the duties, probably, of their respective situations prevented their attendance on the examination of this, and on the first examination of another most important witness, Mr. Robert Bidgood ; and surely your Majesty will permit me here, without offence, to complain, that it is not a little hard, that when your Majesty had shewn your anxiety to have legal accuracy, and legal experience assist on this examination, the two most important witnesses, in whose examinations there is more matter for unfavourable interpretation, than in all the rest put together, should have been examined without the benefit of this accuracy, and this experience. And I am the better justified in making this observation, if what has been suggested to me is correct ; that if it shall not be allowed that the power of administering an oath under this warrant or commission is questionable, yet it can hardly be doubted, that it is most questionable whether, according to the terms or meaning of the warrant or commission, as it constitutes no *quorum*. Lord Spencer and Lord Grenville could administer an oath, or act in the absence of the other Lords ; and if they could not, Mr. Cole's falsehood must be out of the reach of punishment.

Returning then from this digression, will your Majesty permit me to ask whether I am to understand this fact, respecting the man in a great coat, to be one of those which must necessarily give occasion to the most unfavourable interpretations ? which must be credited till decidedly contradicted ? and which, if true, deserve the most serious consideration ? The unfavourable interpretations which this fact may occasion, doubtless are that this man was either Sir Sidney Smith, or some other *paramour*, who was admitted by me into my house in disguise at midnight, for the accomplishment

of my wicked and adulterous purposes. And is it possible that your Majesty, is it possible that any candid mind can believe this fact, with the unfavourable interpretations which it occasions, on the relation of a servant, who for all that appears, mentions it for the first time, four years after the event took place; and who gives, himself, this picture of his honesty and fidelity to a master, whom he has served so long, that he, whose nerves are of so moral a frame, that he starts at seeing a single man sitting at mid-day, in an open drawing-room, on the same sofa, with a married woman, permitted this disguised midnight adulterer to approach his master's bed, without taking any notice, without making any alarm, without offering any interruption. And why, because (as he expressly states) he did not believe him to be a thief: and because (as he plainly insinuates) he did believe him to be an adulterer.

But what makes the manner in which the Commissioners suffered this fact to remain so unexplained, the more extraordinary is this; Mr. Cole had in his original declaration of the 11th of January, which was before the Commissioners, stated "that one night, about twelve o'clock, he saw a person wrapped up in a great coat, go across the Park into the gate at the Green House, and he verily believes it was Sir Sidney Smith." In his declaration then, (when he was not upon oath) he ventures to state, "that he verily believes it was Sir Sidney Smith." When he is upon his oath, in his depositions before the Commissioners, all that he ventures to swear is, "that he gave no alarm, because the impression upon his mind was, that it was not a thief!!" And the difference is most important. "The impression upon his mind was, that it was not a thief!!" I believe him, and the impression upon my mind too is, that he *knew* it was not a thief—That he knew who it was—and that he knew it was no other than *my watchman*. What incident it is that he alludes to, I cannot pretend to know. But this I know, that if it refers to any man with whose proceedings I have the least acquaintance or privity, it must have been my watchman; who, if he executes my orders, nightly, and often in



the night goes his rounds, both inside and outside of my house. And this circumstance, which I should think would rather afford, to most minds, an inference that I was not preparing the way of planning facilities for secret midnight assignations, has, in my conscience, I believe, (if there is one word of truth in any part of this story, and the whole of it is not pure invention) afford the handle, and suggested the idea to this honest, trusty man, this witness, "who cannot be suspected of any unfavourable bias," "whose veracity in that respect the Commissioners saw no ground to question," and "who must be credited till he received decided contradiction," suggested, I say, the idea of the dark and vile insinuation contained in this part of his testimony.

Whether I am right or wrong, however, in this conjecture, this appears to be evident, that this examination is so left, that supposing an indictment for perjury or false swearing, would lie against any witness, examined by the Commissioners, and supposing this examination had been taken before the whole four.—If Mr. Cole was indicted for perjury, in respect to this part of his deposition, the proof that he did see the watchman, would necessarily acquit him; would establish the truth of what he said, and rescue him from the punishment of perjury, though it would at the same time prove the falsehood and injustice of the inference, and the insinuation, for the establishment of which alone, the fact itself was sworn.

Mr. Cole chooses further to state, that he ascribes his removal from Montague House to London, to the discovery he had made, and the notice he had taken of the improper situation of Sir Sidney Smith with me upon the sofa. To this I can oppose little more than my own assertions, as my motives can only be known to myself.—But Mr. Cole was a very disagreeable servant to me; he was a man, who, as I always conceived, had been educated above his station. He talked French, and was a musician, playing well on the violin.—By these qualifications he had got admitted occasionally into better company, and this probably led to that

forward and obtrusive conduct, which I thought extremely offensive and impertinent in a servant. I had long been extremely displeased with him; I had discovered, that when I went out he would come into my drawing-room, and play on my harpsichord, or sit there reading my books;—and, in short, there was a forwardness which would have led to my absolutely discharging him a long time before, if I had not made a sort of rule to myself, to forbear, as long as possible, from removing any servant who had been placed about me by his Royal Highness.—Before Mr. Cole lived with the Prince, he had lived with the Duke of Devonshire, and I had reason to believe that he carried to Devonshire House all the observations he could make at mine. For these various reasons, just before the Duke of Kent was about to go out of the kingdom, I requested his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, who had been good enough to take the trouble of arranging many particulars in my establishment, to make the arrangements with respect to Mr. Cole; which was to leave him in town to wait upon me only when I went to Carlton House, and not to come to Montague House except when specially required. This arrangement, it seems, offended him. It certainly deprived him of some perquisites which he had when living at Blackheath; but upon the whole, as it left him so much more of his time at his own disposal, I should not have thought it had been much to his prejudice. It seems however, that he did not like it: and I must leave this part of the case with this one observation more—That Your Majesty, I trust, will hardly believe, that, if Mr. Cole had, by any accident, discovered any improper conduct of mine, towards Sir Sidney Smith, or any one else, the way which I should have taken to suppress his information, to close his mouth, would have been by immediately adopting an arrangement in my family, with regard to him, which was either prejudicial or disagreeable to him: or that the way to remove him from the opportunity and the temptation of betraying my secret, whether through levity or design, in the quarter where it would be most fatal to me that it should be known, was by making an arrangement

which, while all his resentment and anger were fresh and warm about him, would place him frequently, nay, almost daily, at Carlton House; would place him precisely at that place, from whence, unquestionably, it must have been my interest to have kept him as far removed as possible.

There is little or nothing in the examinations of the other witnesses which is material for me to observe upon, as far as respects this part of the case. It appears from them indeed, what I have had no difficulty in admitting, and have observed upon before, that Sir Sidney Smith was frequently at Montague House, that they have known him to be alone with me in the morning, but that they never knew him alone with me in an evening, or staying later than my company or the Ladies; for what Mr. Stikeman says, with respect to his being alone with me in an evening, can only mean, and is only reconcileable with all the rest of the evidence on this part of the case, by its being understood to mean alone, in respect of other company, but not alone, in the absence of my Ladies. The deposition indeed of my servant, S. Roberts, is thus far material upon that point, that it exhibits Mr. Cole, not less than three years ago, endeavouring to collect evidence upon these points to my prejudice. For your Majesty will find that he says, "I recollect Mr. Cole once asking me, I think three years ago, whether there were any favourites in the family. I remember saying that Captain Manby and Sir Sidney Smith were frequently at Blackheath, and dined there oftener than other persons." He then proceeds, "I never knew Sir Sidney Smith stay later than the ladies; I cannot exactly say at what time he went, but I never remember his staying alone with the Princess."

As to what is contained in the written declarations of Mr. and Mrs. Lampert, the old servants of Sir John and Lady Douglas (as from some circumstance or other respecting, I conceive, either their credit or their supposed importance), the Commissioners have not thought proper to examine them upon their oaths, I do not imagine your Majesty would expect that I should take any notice of them. And as to what is deposed by my Lady

Douglas, if your Majesty will observe the gross and horrid indecencies with which she ushers in, and states my confessions to her, of my asserting criminal intercourse with Sir Sidney Smith, your Majesty, I am confident, will not be surprised that I do not descend to my particular observations on her deposition. One, and one only observation, will I make, which, however, could not have escaped your Majesty, if I had omitted it. That your Majesty will have an excellent portraiture of the true female delicacy and purity of my Lady Douglas's mind and character, when you will observe that she seems wholly insensible to what a sink of infamy she degrades herself by her testimony against me. It is not only that it appears, from her statement, that she was contented to live, in familiarity and apparent friendship with me, after the confession which I made of my adultery (for by the indulgence and liberality, as it is called, of modern manners, the company of adulteresses has ceased to reflect that discredit upon the characters of other women who admit to their society, which the best interests of female virtue may perhaps require.) But she was contented to live in familiarity with a woman, who, if Lady Douglas's evidence of me is true, was a most low, vulgar, and profligate disgrace to her sex. The grossness of whose ideas and conversation, would add infamy to the lowest, most vulgar, and most infamous prostitute. It is not, however, upon this circumstance, that I rest assured no reliance can be placed on Lady Douglas's testimony; but after what is proved, with regard to her evidence respecting my pregnancy and delivery in 1802, I am certain that any observations upon her testimony, or her veracity, must be flung away.

Your Majesty has therefore now before you the state of the charge against me, as far as it respects Sir Sidney Smith. And this is, as I understand the Report, one of the charges *which, with its unfavourable interpretations, must, in the opinion of the Commissioners, be credited till decidedly contradicted.*

As to the facts of frequent visiting on terms of great intimacy, as I have said before, they cannot be contra-

dicted at all. How inferences and unfavourable interpretations are to be decidedly contradicted, I wish the Commissioners had been so good as to explain. I know of no possible way but by the declarations of myself and Sir Sidney Smith. Yet we being the supposed guilty parties, our denial, probably, will be thought of no great weight. As to my own, however, I tender it to your Majesty, in the most solemn manner, and if I knew what fact it was that I ought to contradict, to clear my innocence, I would precisely address myself to that fact, as I am confident, my conscience would enable me to do, to any, from which a criminal or an unbecoming inference could be drawn. I am sure, however, your Majesty will feel for the humiliated and degraded situation, to which this report has reduced your daughter-in-law, the Princess of Wales; when you see her reduced to the necessity of either risking the danger, that the most unfavourable interpretations should be credited; or else of stating, as I am now degraded to the necessity of stating, that not only no adulterous, or criminal, but no indecent or improper intercourse whatever, ever subsisted between Sir Sidney Smith and myself, or any thing which I should have objected that all the world should have seen. I say degraded to the necessity of stating it; for your Majesty must feel that a woman's character is degraded when it is put upon her to make such statement, at the peril of the contrary being credited unless she decidedly contradicts it. Sir Sidney Smith's absence from the country prevents my calling upon him to attest the same truth. But I trust when your Majesty shall find, as you will find, that my declaration to a similar effect, with respect to the other gentlemen referred to in this Report, is confirmed by their denial, that your Majesty will think that in a case, where nothing but my own word can be adduced, my own word alone may be opposed to whatever little remains of credit or weight may, after all the above observations, be supposed yet to belong to Mr. Cole, to his inferences, his insinuations, or his facts. Not indeed that I have yet finished my observations on Mr. Cole's credit; but I must reserve the remainder, till I consider his evidence with respect



to Mr. Lawrence; and till I have occasion to comment upon the testimony of Fanny Lloyd. Then indeed I shall be under the necessity of exhibiting to your Majesty these witnesses, Fanny Lloyd and Mr. Cole, (both of whom are represented as so unbiassed, and so credible) in flat, decisive, and irreconcilable contradiction to each other.

The next person, with whom my improper intimacy is insinuated, is Mr. Lawrence, the painter.

The principal witness on this charge is also Mr. Cole, Mr. R. Bidgood says nothing about him, Fanny Lloyd says nothing about him; and all that Mrs. Lisle says is perfectly true, and I am neither able, nor feel interested, to contradict it. "That she remembers my sitting to Mr. Lawrence for my picture at Blackheath; and in London; that she has left me at his house in town with him, but she thinks Mrs. Fitzgerald was with us; and that she thinks I sat alone with him at Blackheath." But Mr. Cole speaks of Mr. Lawrence in a manner that calls for particular observation. He says, "Mr. Lawrence, the painter, used to go to Montague House about the latter end of 1801, when he was painting the Princess, and he has slept in the house two or three nights together. I have often seen him alone with the Princess at 11 or 12 o'clock at night. He has been there as late as one and two o'clock in the morning. One night I saw *him with the Princess in the Blue Room, after the ladies had retired. Some time afterwards, when I supposed he had gone to his room, I went to see that all was safe, and I found the Blue Room door locked, and heard a whispering in it; and I went away.*" Here again your Majesty observes, that Mr. Cole deals his deadliest blows against my character by insinuation. And here again his insinuation is left unsifted and unexplained. I here understand him to insinuate that, though he supposed Mr. Lawrence to have gone to his room, he was still where he had said he last left him; and that the locked door prevented him from seeing me and Mr. Lawrence alone together, whose whispering, however, he notwithstanding overheard.

Before, Sire, I come to my own explanation of the fact of Mr. Lawrence's sleeping at Montague House, I must again refer to Mr. Cole's original declarations. I must again examine Mr. Cole, against Mr. Cole : which I cannot help lamenting it does not seem to have occurred to others to have done ; as I am persuaded if it had, his prevarications, and his falsehood, could never have escaped them. They would then have been able to have traced, as your Majesty will now do, through my observations, by what degrees he hardened himself up to the infamy (for I can use no other expression) of stating this fact, by which he means to insinuate that he heard me and Mr. Lawrence, locked up in this Blue Room, whispering together, and alone. I am sorry to be obliged to drag your Majesty through so long a detail ; but I am confident your Majesty's goodness, and love of justice, will excuse it, as it is essential to the vindication of my character, as well as to the illustration of Mr. Cole's.

Mr. Cole's examination, as contained in his first written declaration of the 11th of January, has nothing of this. I mean not to say that it has nothing concerning Mr. Lawrence, for it has much, which is calculated to occasion unfavourable interpretations, and given with a view to that object. But that circumstance, as I submit to your Majesty, increases the weight of my observation. Had there been nothing in his first declaration about Mr. Lawrence at all, it might have been imagined that perhaps Mr. Lawrence escaped his recollection altogether ; or that his declaration had been solely directed to other persons ; but as it does contain observations respecting Mr. Lawrence, but nothing of a locked door, or the whispering within it ;—how he happened at that time not to recollect, or if he recollected not to mention, so very striking and remarkable a circumstance, is not, I should imagine, very satisfactorily to be explained. His statement in that first declaration stands thus, “ In 1801, Lawrence the painter was at Montague House, for four or five days at a time, painting the Princess's picture. That he was frequently alone late in the night with the Princess, and much suspicion

was entertained of him." Mr. Cole's next declaration, at least the next which appears among the written declarations, was taken on the 14th of January; it does not mention Mr. Lawrence's name, but it has this passage. "When Mr. Cole found the drawing-room, which led to the staircase to the Princess's apartments locked (which your Majesty knows is the same which the witnesses call the Blue Room) he does not know whether any person was with her; but it appeared odd to him, as he had formed some suspicions." The striking and important observation on this passage is, that when he first talks of the door of the drawing-room being locked, so far from his mentioning any thing of *whispering being overheard*, he expressly says, that he did not know that any body was with me. The passage is likewise deserving your Majesty's most serious consideration on another ground. For it is one of those which shews that Mr. Cole, though we have four separate declarations made by him, has certainly made other statements which have not been transmitted to your Majesty; for it evidently refers to something, which he had said before, of having found the drawing-room door locked, and no trace of such a statement, is discoverable in the previous examination of Mr. Cole, as I have received it, and I have no doubt that, in obedience to your Majesty's commands, I have at length been furnished with the whole. I don't know, indeed, that it should be matter of complaint from me, that your Majesty has not been furnished with all the statements of Mr. Cole, because from the sample I see of them, I cannot suppose that any of them could have furnished any thing favourable to me, except indeed that they might have furnished me with fresh means of contradicting him by himself.

But your Majesty will see that there have been other statements not communicated; a circumstance of which both your Majesty and I have reason to complain. But it may be out of its place further to notice that fact at present.

To return therefore to Mr. Cole;—in his third declaration dated the 30th of January, there is not a word about Mr. Lawrence. In his fourth and last, which is

dated on the 23d of February he says, "the person who was alone with the lady at late hours of the night (twelve and one o'clock,) and whom he left sitting up after he went to bed, was Mr. Lawrence, which happened two different nights." Here is likewise another trace of a former statement which is not given; for no such person is mentioned before in any that I have been furnished with.

Your Majesty then here observes, that, after having given evidence in two of his declarations, respecting Mr. Lawrence by name, in which he mentions nothing of locked doors, and, after having in another declaration, given an account of a locked door, but expressly stated that he knew not whether any one was with me within it, and said nothing about whispering being overheard, but impliedly, at least, negatived it;—in the deposition before the Commissioners, he puts all these things together, and has the hardihood to add to them that remarkable circumstance, which could not have escaped his recollection at the first, if it had been true, "of his having on the same night in which he found me and Mr. Lawrence alone, after the ladies were gone to bed, come again to the room when he thought Mr. Lawrence must have been retired, and found the door locked and heard the whispering;" and then again he gives another instance of his honesty, and upon the same principle on which he took no notice of the man in the great coat, he finds the door locked, hears the whispering, and then he silently and contentedly retires.

And this witness, who thus not only varies in his testimony, but contradicts himself in such important particulars, is one of those who cannot be suspected of unfavourable bias, and whose veracity is not to be questioned, and whose evidence must be credited till decidedly contradicted.

These observations might probably be deemed sufficient, upon Mr. Cole's deposition, as far as it respects Mr. Lawrence; but I cannot be satisfied without explaining to your Majesty, all the truth, and the particulars, respecting Mr. Lawrence, which I recollect.

What I recollect then is as follows. He began a large

picture of me, and of my daughter, towards the latter end of the year 1800, or the beginning of 1801. Miss Garth and Miss Hayman were in the house with me at the time. The picture was painted at Montague House. Mr. Lawrence mentioned to Miss Hayman his wish to be permitted to remain some few nights in the house, that by rising early he might begin painting on the picture, before Princess Charlotte (whose residence being at that time at Shooter's Hill was enabled to come early.) or myself, came to sit. It was a similar request to that which had been made by Sir William Beechy, when he painted my picture. And I was sensible of no impropriety when I granted the request to either of them. Mr. Lawrence occupied the same room which had been occupied by Sir William Beechy; — it was at the other end of the house from my apartment.

At that time Mr. Lawrence did not dine with me; his dinner was served in his own room. After dinner he came down to the room where I and my Ladies generally sat in an evening, sometimes there was music, in which he joined, and sometimes he read poetry. Parts of Shakespeare's plays I particularly remember, from his reading them very well; and sometimes he played chess with me. It frequently may have happened that it was one or two o'clock before I dismissed Mr. Lawrence and my Ladies. They, together with Mr. Lawrence, went out of the same door, up the same stair-case, and at the same time. According to my own recollection I should have said, that in no one instance, they had left Mr. Lawrence behind them, alone with me. But I suppose it did happen once for a short time, since Mr. Lawrence so recollects it, as your Majesty will perceive from his deposition, which I annex. He staid in my house two or three nights together: but how many nights in the whole, I do not recollect. The picture left my house by April, 1801, and Mr. Lawrence never slept in my house afterwards. That picture now belongs to Lady Townsend. He has since completed another picture of me; and about a year and a half ago, he began another, which remains at present unfinished. I believe it is near a twelve month since I last sat to him.



Mr. Lawrence lives upon a footing of the greatest intimacy with the neighbouring families of Mr. Lock and Mr. Angerstein ; and I have asked them sometimes to dine with me to meet them. While I was sitting to him at my own house, I have no doubt I must often have sat to him alone ; as the necessity for the precaution of having an attendant as a witness to protect my honour from suspicion, certainly never occurred to me. And upon the same principle, I do not doubt that I may have sometimes continued in conversation with him after he had finished painting. But when sitting in his own house, I have always been attended by one of my ladies.—And indeed nothing in the examinations state the contrary. One part of Mrs. Lisle's examination seems as if she had a question put to her, upon the supposition that I had been left alone with Mr. Lawrence at his own house ; to which she answers, that she indeed had left me there, but that she *thinks* she left Mrs. Fitzgerald with me.

If an inference of an unfavourable nature could have been drawn from my having been left there alone:—was it, Sire, taking all that care which might be wished, to guard against such an inference on the part of the Commissioners, when they omitted to send for Mrs. Fitzgerald to ascertain what Mrs. Lisle may have left in doubt. The Commissioners, I give them the fullest credit, were satisfied that Mrs. Lisle thought correctly upon this fact, and that Mrs. Fitzgerald, if she had been sent for again, would so have proved it, and therefore that it would have been troubling her to no purpose. But this it is, of which I conceive myself to have most reason to complain ; that the examinations, in several instances, have not been followed up so as to remove unfavourable impressions.

I cannot but feel satisfied that the commissioners would have been glad to have been warranted in negating all criminality, and all suspicion on this part of the charge, as completely and honourably as they have done on the principal charges of pregnancy and delivery. They traced that part of the charge with ability, sagacity, diligence and perseverance ; and the result was

complete satisfaction of my innocence; complete detection of the falsehood of my accusers. Encouraged by their success in that part of their enquiry, I lament that they did not, (as they thought proper to enter into the other part of it at all,) with similar industry pursue it. If they had, I am confident they would have pursued it with the same success; but though they had convicted Sir John and Lady Douglas of falsehood, they seem to to have thought it *impossible to suspect* of the same falsehood any other of the witnesses, though produced by Sir John and Lady Douglass. The most obvious means, therefore, of trying their credit, by comparing their evidence with what they had said before, seems to me to have been omitted. Many facts are left upon surmise only and insinuation; obvious means of getting further information on doubtful and suspicious circumstances are not resorted to; and, as if the important matter of the inquiry (on which a satisfactory conclusion had been formed) was all that required any very attentive or accurate consideration; the remainder of it was pursued in a manner which, as it seems to me, can only be accounted for by the pressure of what may have been deemed more important duties—and of this I should have made but little complaint, if this inquiry, where it is imperfect, had not been followed by a Report, which the most accurate only could have justified, and which such an accurate inquiry, I am confident, never could have produced.

If any credit was given to Mr. Cole's story of the locked door, and the whispering; and to Mr. Lawrence having been left with me so frequently of a night when my Ladies had left us, why were not all my Ladies examined? Why were not all my servants examined as to their knowledge of that fact? And if they had been so examined, and had contradicted the fact so sworn to by Mr. Cole, as they must have done, had they been examined to it; that alone would have been sufficient to have removed his name from the list of unsuspected and unquestionable witnesses, and relieved me from much of the suspicion, which his evidence, till it was examined, was calculated to have raised in your Majesty's mind.

—And to close this statement, and these observations and in addition to them,—I most solemnly assert to your Majesty, that Mr. Lawrence, neither at his own house, nor at mine, nor any where else, ever was for one moment, by night or by day, in the same room with me when the door of it was locked ; that he never was in my company of an evening alone, except the momentary conversation which Mr. Lawrence speaks to may be thought an exception ; and that nothing ever passed between him and me which all the world might not have witnessed. And, Sire, I have subjoined a deposition to the same effect from Mr. Lawrence.

To satisfy myself, therefore, and your Majesty, I have shewn, I trust, by unanswerable observations and arguments, that there is no colour for crediting Mr. Cole, or, consequently, any part of this charge, which rests solely on his evidence. But to satisfy the requisition of the Commissioners, I have brought my pride to submit, (though not without great pain, I can assure your Majesty) to add the only contradictions which I conceive can be given, those of Mr. Lawrence and myself.

The next person with whom these examinations charge my improper familiarity, and with regard to which the Report represents the evidence as particularly strong, is Captain Manby. With respect to him, Mr. Cole's examination is silent.—But the evidence, on which the Commissioners rely on this part of the case, is Mr. Bidgood's, Miss Fanny Lloyd's, and Mrs. Lisle's.—It respects my conduct at three different places ; at Montague House, Southend, and at Ramsgate. I shall preserve the facts and my observations more distinct if I consider the evidence, as applicable to these three places, separately, and in its order ; and I prefer this mode of treating it, as it will enable me to consider the evidence of Mrs. Lisle in the first place, and consequently put it out of the reach of the harsher observations, which I may be under the necessity of making, upon the testimony of the other two. For though Mrs. Lisle, indeed, speaks to having seen Captain Manby at East Cliff, in August, 1803, to the best of her remem-

brance it was only once. She speaks to his meeting her at Deal, in the same season; that he landed there with some boys whom I took on charity, and who were under his care; yet she speaks of nothing there that can require a single observation from me.—The material parts of her evidence respect her seeing him at Blackheath, the Christmas before she had seen him at East Cliff. She says, it was the Christmas after Mr. Austin's child came, consequently the Christmas 1802-3.—He used to come to dine there, she says—he always went away in her presence, and she had no reason to think he staid after the Ladies retired. He lodged on the Heath at the time, his ship was fitting up at Deptford; he came to dinner three or four times a week or more.—She supposes he might be alone with the Princess, but that she was in the habit of seeing Gentlemen and Tradesmen without her being present. She (Mrs. Lisle) has seen him at luncheon and dinner both. The boys (two boys) came with him two or three times, but not to dinner. Captain Manby always sat next the Princess at dinner. The constant company were Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald, and herself—all retired with the Princess, and sat in the same room. Capt. Manby generally retired about eleven; and sat with us all till then. Capt. Manby and the Princess used, when we were together, to be speaking together separately, conversing separately, but not in a room alone. He was a person with whom the Princess appeared to have greater pleasure in talking than with her Ladies. Her Royal Highness behaved to him *ONLY as any woman would who likes flirting.* She (Mrs. Lisle) would not have thought any married woman would have behaved properly, who behaved as her Royal Highness did to Captain Manby. She can't say whether the Princess was attached to Captain Manby, only that it was a *flirting conduct.* She never saw any gallantries, as kissing her hand, or the like.

I have cautiously stated the whole of Mrs. Lisle's evidence upon this part of the case; and I am sure your Majesty in reading it, will not fail to keep the facts, which Mrs. Lisle speaks to, separate from the opinion, or judgment, which she forms upon them. I



mean not to speak disrespectfully or slightly, of Mrs. Lisle's opinion ; or express myself as in any degree indifferent to it. But whatever there was, which she observed in my conduct, that did not become a married woman, that "was ONLY like a woman who liked flirting," and "ONLY a flirting conduct," I am convinced your Majesty must be satisfied that it must have been far distant from affording any evidence of crime, of vice, or of indecency, as it passed openly in the company of my Ladies, of whom Mrs. Lisle herself was one.

The facts she states are, that Captain Manby came very frequently to my house ; that he dined there three or four times a week in the latter end of the year 1802 ; that he sat next to me at dinner ; and that my conversation after dinner, in the evening, used to be with Captain Manby, separate from my Ladies. These are the facts : and is it upon them that my character, I will not say, is to be taken away, but is to be *affected*?

Captain Manby had, in the autumn of the same year, been introduced to me by Lady Townsend, when I was upon a visit to her at Rainham. I think he came there only the day before I left it. He was a naval officer, as I understood, and as I still believe, of great merit. What little expence, in the way of charity, I am able to afford, I am best pleased to dedicate to the education of the children of poor, but honest persons ; and I most generally bring them up to the service of the Navy. I had at that time two boys at school, whom I thought of an age fit to be put to sea, I desired Lady Townsend to prevail upon Captain Manby to take them. He consented to it, and of course I was obliged to him.

About this time, or shortly afterwards, he was appointed to the *Africaine*, a ship which was fitting up at Deptford. To be near his ship, as I understood and believe, he took lodgings at Blackheath ; and as to the mere fact of his being so frequently at my house,—his intimacy and friendship with Lord and Lady Townsend, which of itself was assurance to me of his respectability and character—my pleasure in shewing my respect to



them, by notice and attention to a friend of theirs,—his undertaking the care of my charity boys,—and his accidental residence at Blackheath, will, I should trust, not unreasonably account for it. I have a similar account likewise to give of paying for the linen furniture, with which his cabin was furnished. Wishing to make him some return for his trouble with the boys, I desired that I might choose the pattern of his furniture. I not only chose it but had it sent to him, and paid the bill; finding, however, that it did not come to more than about twenty pounds, I thought it a shabby present, and therefore added some trifling present of plate. So I have frequently done, and I hope without offence may be permitted to do again to any Captain, on whom I impose such trouble. Sir Samuel Hood has now two of my charity boys with him; and I have presented him with a silver Epergne. I should be ashamed to mention such things, but your Majesty perceives that they are made the subject of Inquiry from Mrs. Fitzgerald, and Mr. Stikeman, and I was desirous that they should not appear to be particular in the case of Captain Manby.

But to return to Mrs. Lisle's examination. Mrs. Lisle says that Captain Manby, when he dined with me, sat next to me at dinner. Before any inference is drawn from that fact, I am sure your Majesty will observe that, in the next line of Mrs. Lisle's examination, she says, "that the constant company was Mrs. and Miss Fitzgerald, and herself, Mrs. Lisle." The only gentleman, the only person of the whole party who was not of my own family, was Captain Manby; and his sitting next to me, under such circumstances, I should apprehend, could not possibly afford any inference of any kind. In the evening we were never alone. The whole company sat together; nay even as to his being with me alone of a morning, Mrs. Lisle seems to know nothing of the fact, but from a conjecture founded upon her knowledge of my known usual habit, with respect to seeing gentlemen who might call upon me. And the very foundation of her conjecture demonstrates that this circumstance can be no evidence of any thing particular with regard to Captain Manby,

As to my conversing with Captain Manby separately, I do not understand Mrs. Lisle as meaning to speak to the state of the conversation uninterruptedly, during the whole of any of the several evenings when Captain Manby was with me; if I did so understand her, I should certainly most confidently assert, that she was not correct. That in the course of the evening, as the ladies were working, reading, or otherwise amusing themselves, the conversation was sometimes more and sometimes less general; and that they sometimes took more, sometimes less part in it;—that frequently it was between Captain Manby and myself alone; and that, when we were all together, we two might frequently be the only persons not otherwise engaged, and therefore be justly said to be speaking together separately. Besides Captain Manby has been round the world with Captain Vancovre. I have looked over prints in books of voyages with him; he has explained them to me; the ladies may or may not have been looking over them at the same time; they may have been engaged with their own amusements. Here again, we may be said to have been conversing separately, and consequently that Mrs. Lisle, in this sense, is perfectly justified in saying that “I used to converse separately with Captain Manby,” I have not the least difficulty in admitting. But have I not again reason to complain that this expression of Mrs. Lisle’s was not more sifted, but left in a manner calculated to raise an impression that this separate conversation was studiously sought for, was constant, uniform, and uninterrupted, though it by no means asserts any such thing? But whether I used *always* so to converse with him; or *generally*, or only *sometimes*, or for what proportion of the evening I used to be so engaged, is left unasked and unexplained. Have I not likewise just reason to complain, that though Mrs. Lisle states, that Mrs. Fitzgerald and Miss Fitzgerald were always of the party, they are not both examined to these circumstances? But Miss Fitzgerald is not examined at all; and Mrs. Fitzgerald, though examined, and examined

too with respect to Captain Manby, does not appear to have had a single question put to her with respect to any thing which passed concerning him at Montague House. May I not therefore complain that the examination, leaving the generality of Mrs. Lisle's expression unexplained by herself; and the scenes to which it relates unexamined into, by calling the other persons who were present, is leaving it precisely in that state, which is better calculated to raise a suspicion, than to ascertain the truth?

But I am persuaded, that the unfavourable impression which is most likely to be made by Mrs. Lisle's examination, is not by her evidence to the facts, but by her opinion upon them. "I appeared," she says, "to like the conversation of Captain Manby better than that of my ladies. I behaved to him *only* as a woman who likes flirting; my conduct was unbecoming a married woman; she cannot say whether I was attached to Captain Manby or not; it was *only* a flirting conduct."—Now, Sire, I must here again most seriously complain that the Commissioners should have called for, or received, and much more reported, in this manner, the *opinion* and *judgment* of Mrs. Lisle upon my conduct. Your Majesty's warrant purports to authorise them to collect the evidence, and not the opinion of others; and to report it, with their own judgment surely, and not Mrs. Lisle's. Mrs. Lisle's judgment was formed upon those facts which she stated to the Commissioners, or upon other facts. If upon those she stated, the Commissioners, and your Majesty, are as well able to form the judgment upon them as she was. If upon other facts, the Commissioners should have heard what those other facts were, and upon them have formed and reported their judgment.

I am aware, indeed, that if I were to argue that the facts which Mrs. Lisle states, afford the explanation of what she means by "only flirting conduct," and by "behaviour unbecoming a married woman," namely, that it consisted in having the same gentleman to dine with me three or four times a week;—letting him sit

next me at dinner, when there were no other strangers in company;—conversing with him separately, and appearing to prefer his conversation to that of the ladies,—it would be observed probably, that this was not all; that there was always a certain indescribable something in *manner*, which gave the character to conduct, and must have entered mainly into such a judgment as Mrs. Lisle has here pronounced.

To a certain extent I should be obliged to agree to this; but if I am to have any prejudice from this observation; if it is to give a weight and authority to Mrs. Lisle's judgment, let me have the advantage of it also. If it justifies the conclusion that Mrs. Lisle's censure upon my conduct is right, it requires also that equal credit should be given to the qualification, the limit, and the restriction, which she herself puts upon that censure.

Mrs. Lisle, seeing all the facts which she relates, and observing much of manner, which perhaps she could not describe, limits the expression "flirting conduct" by calling it "only flirting," and says (upon having the question asked to her, no doubt, whether from the whole she could collect that I was attached to Captain Manby) says "she could not say whether I was attached to him, my conduct was not of a nature that proved any attachment to him, it was only a flirting conduct." Unjust therefore, as I think it, that any such question should have been put to Mrs. Lisle, or that her judgment should have been taken at all; yet what I fear from it, as pressing with peculiar hardship upon me, is, that though it is Mrs. Lisle's final, and ultimate, judgment upon the whole of my conduct, yet, when delivered to the Commissioners and your Majesty, it becomes evidence, which, connected with all the facts on which Mrs. Lisle had formed it, may lead to still further and more unfavourable conclusions, in the minds of those who are afterwards to judge upon it;—that her judgment will be the foundation of other judgments against me, much severer than her own; and that though she evidently limits her opinion, and by saying "ONLY flirting,"



impliedly negatives it as affording any indication of any thing more improper, while she proceeds *expressly* to negative it as affording any proof of attachment ; yet it may be thought by others, to justify their considering it as a species of conduct, which shewed an attachment to the man to whom it was addressed ; which in a married woman was criminal and wrong.

What Mrs. Lisle exactly means by *only flirting* conduct—what degree of impropriety of conduct she would describe by it, it is extremely difficult, with any precision, to ascertain. How many women are there, most virtuous, most truly modest, incapable of any thing impure, vicious, or immoral, in deed or thought, who, from greater vivacity of spirits, from less natural reserve, from that want of caution, which the very consciousness of innocence betrays them into, conduct themselves in a manner, which a woman of a graver character, of more reserved disposition, but not with one particle of superior virtue, thinks too incautious, too unreserved, too familiar ; and which, if forced upon her oath to give her opinion upon it, she might feel herself, as an honest woman, bound to say in that opinion, was flirting ?

But whatever sense Mrs. Lisle annexes to the word “flirting” it is evident, as I said before, that she cannot mean any thing criminal, vicious, or indecent, or any thing with the least shade of deeper impropriety than what is necessarily expressed in the word “flirting.” She never would have added, as she does in both instances, that it was *ONLY* flirting ; if she had thought it of a quality to be recorded in a formal Report, amongst circumstances which *must* occasion the *most* unfavourable interpretations, and which deserved the most serious consideration of your Majesty. To use it so, I am sure your Majesty must see is to press it far beyond the meaning which she would assign to it herself.

And as I have admitted that there may be much indescribable in the manner of doing any thing, so it must be admitted to me that there is much indescribable, and most material also in the manner of saying



any thing, and in the accent with which it is said. The whole context serves much to explain it ; and if it is in answer to a question, the words of that question, the manner and the accent in which it is asked, are also most material to understand the precise meaning, which the expressions are intended to convey ; and I must lament therefore extremely, if my character is to be affected by the opinion of any witness, that the question by which that opinion was drawn from her, were not given too, as well as her answers ; and if this Inquiry had been prosecuted before your Majesty's Privy Council, the more solemn and usual course of proceeding there would, as I am informed, have furnished, or enabled me to furnish your Majesty with the questions as well as the answers.

Mrs. Lisle, it should also be observed, was at the time of her examination, under the severe oppression of having, but a few days before, heard of the death of her daughter ;—a daughter, who had been happily married, and who had lived happily with her husband, in mutual attachment till her death. The very circumstance of her then situation, would naturally give a graver and severer cast to her opinions. When the question was proposed to her, as a general question, (and I presume it must have been so put to her) whether my conduct was such as would become a married woman, possibly her own daughter's conduct, and what she would have expected of her, might present itself to her mind. And I confidently submit to your Majesty's better judgment, that such a general question ought not, in a fair and candid consideration of my case, to have been put to Mrs. Lisle, or any other woman. For, as to my conduct being, or not being, becoming a married woman ; the same conduct, or any thing like it, which may occur in my case, could not occur in the case of a married woman, who was not living in my unfortunate situation ; or, if it did occur, it must occur under circumstances which must give it, and most deservedly, a very different character. A married woman, living well and happily with her husband, could not be frequently having one gentleman at

her table, with no other company but ladies of her family ;—she could not be spending her evenings frequently in the same society, and separately conversing with that gentleman, unless either with the privity and consent of her husband, or by taking advantage, with some management, of his ignorance and his absence ; if it was with his privity and consent, that very circumstance alone would unquestionably alter the character of such conduct,—if with management she avoided his knowledge, that very management would betray a bad motive. The cases therefore are not parallel ;—the illustration is not just ;—and the question, which called for such an answer from Mrs. Lisle, ought not, in candour and fairness, to have been put.

I entreat your Majesty, however, not to misunderstand me ;—I should be ashamed indeed to be suspected of pleading any peculiar or unfortunate circumstance, in my situation, as an excuse for any criminal or indecent act. With respect to such acts, most unquestionably such circumstances can make no difference ;—and afford no excuse. They must bear their own character of disgrace and infamy, under all circumstances. But there are acts, which are unbecoming a married woman, which ought to be avoided by her, from an apprehension lest they should render her husband uneasy, not because they might give him any reason to distrust her chastity, her virtue, or her morals, but because they might wound his feelings, by indicating a preference to the society of another man, over his, in a case where she had the option of both. But surely, as to such acts, they must necessarily bear a very different character, and receive a very different construction, in a case, where, unhappily, there can be no such apprehension, and where there is no such option. I must, therefore, be excused for dwelling so much upon this part of the case ; and I am sure, your Majesty will feel me warranted in saying, what I say with a confidence, exactly proportioned to the respectability of Mrs. Lisle's character, that, whatever she meant, by any of these expressions, she could not, by possibility, have meant to describe conduct, which to her mind

afforded evidence of crime, vice, or indecency. If she had, her regard to her own character, her own delicacy, her own honourable and virtuous feelings, would in less than the two years, which have since elapsed, have found some excuse for separating herself from that intimate connection, which, by her situation in my household, subsists between us. She would not have remained exposed to the repetition of so gross an offence, an insult, to a modest, virtuous, and delicate woman, as that of being made, night by night, witness to scenes, openly acted in her presence, offensive to virtue and decorum,

If your Majesty thinks I have dwelt too long, and tediously, on this part of the case, I entreat your Majesty to think what I must feel upon it. I feel it a great hardship, as I have frequently stated, that under the cover of a grave charge of High Treason, the proprieties, and decencies, of my private conduct and behaviour, have been made the subject, as I believe so unprecedentedly, of a formal investigation upon oath. And that, in consequence of it, I may, at this moment, be exposed to the danger of forfeiting your Majesty's good opinion, and being degraded and disgraced, in reputation through the country, because what Mrs. Lisle has said of my conduct,—that it was “only that of a woman who liked flirting,” has become recorded in the Report on this formal inquiry, made into matters of grave crimes, and of essential importance to the state.

Let me conjure your Majesty, over and over again, before you suffer this circumstance to prejudice me in your opinion, not only to weigh all the circumstances I have stated, but to look round the first ranks of female virtue, in this country, and see how many women there are of most unimpeached reputation, of most unsullied and unsuspected honour, character, and virtue, whose conduct, though living happily with their husbands, if submitted to the judgment of persons of a severer cast of mind, especially if saddened, at the moment, by calamity, might be stiled to be “flirting.” I would not, however, be understood as

intending to represent Mrs. Lisle's judgment, as being likely to be marked with any improper austerity, and therefore I am certain she must either have had no idea that the expressions she has used, in the manner which she used them, were capable of being understood, in so serious a light as to be referred to, amongst circumstances deserving the most serious consideration, and which must occasion most unfavourable interpretations; or she must, by the imposing novelty of her situation, in private examination before four such grave characters, have been surprised into the use of expressions, which, with a better opportunity of weighing them, she would either not have used at all, or have accompanied with still more of qualification than that, which she has, however, in some degree, as it is, annexed to them.

But my great complaint is the having, not, particularly, Mrs. Lisle's opinion, but any person's opinion, set up, as it were, in judgment against the propriety of my private conduct. How would it be endured, that the judgment of one man should be asked, and recorded in a solemn Report, against the conduct of another, either with respect to his behaviour to his children, or to his wife, or to any other relative? How would it be endured, in general, and I trust, that my case ought not, in this respect, to form an exception, that one woman should in a similar manner be placed in judgment, upon the conduct of another? And that judgment be reported, where her character was of most importance to her, as amongst things which must be credited till decidedly contradicted? Let every one put these questions home to their own breasts, and before they impute blame to me, for protesting against the fairness and justice of this procedure, ask how they would feel upon it, if it were their own case?

But perhaps they cannot bring their imaginations to conceive that it could ever become their own case. A few months ago I could not have believed that it would have been mine.

But the just ground of my complaint may, perhaps.



be more easily appreciated and felt, by supposing a more familiar, but an analogous case. The High Treason, with which I was charged, was supposed to be committed in the foul crime of adultery. What would be the impression of your Majesty, what would be the impression upon the mind of any one, acquainted with the excellent laws of your Majesty's kingdom, and the admirable administration of them, if upon a Commission of this kind, secretly to inquire into the conduct of any man, upon a charge of High Treason, against the state, the Commissioners should not only proceed to inquire, whether in the judgment of the witness, the conduct of the accused was such as became a loyal subject; but, when the result of their Inquiry obliged them to report directly against the charge of Treason, they, nevertheless, should record an imputation, or libel, against his character for loyalty, and reporting, as part of the evidence, the opinion of the witness, that the conduct of the accused was such as did not become a loyal subject, should further report, that the evidence of that witness, without specifying any part of it, must be credited till decidedly contradicted, and deserved the most serious consideration? How could he appeal from that Report? How could he decidedly contradict the opinion of the witness? Sire, there is no difference between this supposed case and mine, but this, That in the case of the man, a character for loyalty, however injured, could not be destroyed by such an insinuation. His future life might give him abundant opportunities of falsifying the justice of it. But a female character, once so blasted, what hope or chance has it of recovery?

Your Majesty will not fail to perceive, that I have pressed this part of the case, with an earnestness which shews that I have felt it. I have no wish to disguise from your Majesty, that I have felt it, and felt it strongly. It is the only part of the case, which I conceive to be in the least degree against me, that rests upon a witness who is at all worthy of your Majesty's credit. How unfair it is, that any thing she has said should be pressed against me, I trust I have sufficiently



shewn. In canvassing, however, Mrs. Lisle's evidence, I hope I have never forgot what was due to Mrs. Lisle. I have been as anxious not to do her injustice, as to do justice to myself. I retain the same respect and regard for Mrs. Lisle now, as I ever had. If the unfavourable impressions, which the Commissioners seem to suppose, fairly arise out of the expressions she has used, I am confident they will be understood, in a sense, which was never intended by her. And I should scorn to purchase any advantage to myself, at the expence of the slightest imputation, unjustly cast upon Mrs. Lisle, or any one else.

Leaving therefore, with these observations, Mrs. Lisle's evidence, I must proceed to the evidence of Mr. Bidgood. The parts of it which apply to this part of the case, I mean my conduct to Captain Manby at Montague House, I shall detail. They are as follows: "I first observed Captain Manby came to Montague House either the end of 1803, or the beginning of 1804. I was waiting one day in the anti-room; Captain Manby had his hat in his hand, and appeared to be going away; he was a long time with the Princess, and, as I stood on the steps waiting, I looked into the room in which they were, and in the reflection on the looking-glass I saw them salute each other. I mean that they kissed each other's lips. Captain Manby then went away. I then observed the Princess have her handkerchief in her hands, and wipe her eyes, as if she was crying, and went into the drawing-room." In his second deposition, on the 3d July, talking of his suspicions of what passed at Southend, he says, "they arose from seeing them kiss each other, as I mentioned before, like people fond of each other; a very close kiss."

In these extracts from his depositions, there can undoubtedly be no complaint of any thing being left to inference. Here is a fact, which must unquestionably occasion almost as unfavourable interpretations, as any fact of the greatest impropriety and indecorum, short of the proof of actual crime. And this fact is positively sworn to. And if this witness is truly represented,

as one who must be credited till he is decidedly contradicted; and the decided contradiction of the parties accused, should be considered as unavailing, it constitutes a charge which cannot possibly be answered. For the scene is so laid, that there is no eye to witness it, but his own: and therefore there can be no one who can possibly contradict him, however false his story may be, but the persons whom he accused. As for me, Sire, there is no mode, the most solemn that can be devised, in which I shall not be anxious and happy to contradict it. And I do here most solemnly, in the face of Heaven, most directly and positively affirm, that it is as foul, malicious, and wicked a falsehood, as ever was invented by the malice of man. Captain Manby, to whom I have been under the necessity of applying, for that purpose, in the deposition which I annex, most expressly and positively denies it also. Beyond these our two denials, there is nothing which can by possibility be *directly* opposed to Mr. Bidgood's evidence.—All that remains to be done is to examine Mr. Bidgood's credit, and to see how far he deserves the character which the Commissioners give to him.—How unfoundedly they gave such a character to Mr. Cole, your Majesty, I am satisfied, must be fully convinced.

I suppose there must be some mistake, I will not call it by any harsher name, for I think it can be no more than a mistake, in Mr. Bidgood's saying, that the first time he knew Captain Manby come to Montague House, was at the end of 1803, or beginning of 1804; for he first came at the end of the former year; and the fact is that Mr. Bidgood must have seen him then.—But, however, the date is comparatively immaterial, the fact it is, that is important.

And here, Sire, surely I have the same complaint which I have so often urged. I would ask your Majesty, whether I, not as a Princess of Wales, but as a party accused, had not a right to be thought, and to be presumed, innocent, till I was proved to be guilty? Let me ask if there ever could exist a case, in which the credit of the witness ought to have been more

severely shifted and tried? The fact rested solely upon his single assertion. However false, it could not possibly receive contradiction, but from the parties. The story itself surely is not very probable. My character cannot be considered as under inquiry; it is already gone, and decided upon, by those, if there are any such, who think such a story probable.—That in a room, with the door open, and a servant known to be waiting just by, we should have acted such a scene of gross indecency. The indiscretion at least might have rendered it improbable, even to those, whose prejudices against me, might be prepared to conceive nothing improbable in the indecency of it. Yet this seems to have been received as a fact that there was no reason to question. The witness is assumed, without hesitation, to be the witness of truth, of unquestionable veracity. Not the faintest trace is there to be found of a single question put to him, to try and sift the credit which was due to him, or to his story.

Is he asked, as I suggested before should have been done with regard to Mr. Cole—To whom he told this fact before? When he told it? what was ever done in consequence of this information? If he never told it, till for the purpose of supporting Lady Douglas's statement, how could he in his situation, as an old servant of the Prince, with whom, as he swears, he had lived twenty-three years, creditably to himself, account for having concealed it so long? And how came Lady Douglas and Sir John to find out that he knew it, if he never had communicated it before? If he had communicated it, it would then have been useful to have heard how far his present story was consistent with his former; and if it should have happened that this and other matters, which he may have stated, were, at that time, made the subject of any inquiry; then how far that inquiry had tended to confirm or shake his credit. His first examination was, it is true, taken by Lord Grenville, and Lord Spencer alone, without the aid of the experience of the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice; this undoubtedly may *account* for the omission; but the noble Lords will forgive me if I say, it does not *excuse* it, especially

as Mr. Bidgood was examined again on the 3d of July, by all the Commissioners, and this fact is again referred to then, as the foundation of the suspicion which he afterwards entertained of Captain Manby at Southend. Nay, that last deposition affords on my part, another ground of similar complaint of the strongest kind. It opens thus: "The Princess used to go out in her phaeton with coachman and helper, towards Long Reach, eight or ten times, carrying luncheon and wine with her, when Captain Manby's ship was at Long Reach, *always Mrs. Fitzgerald with her.*—She would go out at one, and return about five or six, sometimes sooner or later."

The date when Captain Manby's ship was lying at Long Reach, is not given; and therefore whether this was before, or after, the scene of the supposed salute, does not appear. But for what was this statement of Mr. Bidgood's made? Why was it introduced? Why were these drives towards Long Reach with luncheon, connected with Captain Manby's ship lying there at the time, examined to by the Commissioners? The first point, the matter foremost in their minds, when they call back this witness for his re-examination, appears to have been these drives towards Long Reach. Can it have been for any purpose but to have the benefit of the insinuation, to leave it open to be inferred, that those drives were for the purpose of meeting Captain Manby? If this fact was material, why in the name of justice was it so left? Mrs. Fitzgerald was mentioned by name, as accompanying me in them all: Why was not she called? She perhaps was my confidante; no truth could have been hoped for from her;—still there were my coachman and helper, who likewise accompanied me; Why were they not called? they are not surely confidants too.—But it is, for what reason I cannot pretend to say, thought sufficient to leave this fact, or rather this insinuation, upon the evidence of Mr. Bidgood, who only saw, or could see the way I went when I set out upon my drive, instead of having the fact from the persons who could speak to the whole of it; to the places I went to; to the persons whom I met with.

Your Majesty will think me justified in dwelling upon this, the more from this circumstance, because I know, and will shew to your Majesty, on the testimony of Jonathan Partridge, which I annex, that these drives, or at least one of them, have been already the object of previous, and, I believe, nearly cotemporary investigation. The truth is, that it did happen upon two of these drives that I met with Captain Manby; IN ONE of them that he joined me, and went with me to Lord Eardley's, at Belvidere, and that he partook of something which we had to eat;—that some of Lord Eardley's servants were examined as to my conduct upon this occasion;—and I am confidently informed that the servants gave a most satisfactory account of all that passed; nay, that they felt, and have expressed, some honest indignation at the foul suspicion which the examination implied. On the other occasion, having the boys to go on board the *Africaine*, I went with one of my ladies to see them on board, and Capt. Manby joined us in our walk round Mr. Calcraft's grounds at Ingress Park, opposite to Long Reach; where we walked, while my horses were baiting. We went into no house, and on that occasion had nothing to eat.

Perfectly unable to account why these facts were not more fully inquired into, if thought proper to be inquired into at all, I return again to Mr. Bidgood's evidence. As far as it respects my conduct at Montague House, it is confined to the circumstances which I have already mentioned. And, upon those circumstances, I have no further observation, which may tend to illustrate Mr. Bidgood's credit to offer. But I trust if, from other parts of his evidence, your Majesty sees traces of the strongest prejudices against me, and the most scandalous inferences, drawn from circumstances, which can in no degree support them, your Majesty will then be able justly to appreciate the credit due to every part of Mr. Bidgood's evidence.

Under the other head, into which I have divided this part of the case, I mean my conduct at Southend, as relative to Captain Manby, Mr. Bidgood is more



substantial and particular. His statement on this head begins by shewing that I was at Southend about six weeks before the *Africaine*, Captain Manby's ship arrived. That Mr. Sicard was looking out for its arrival, as if she was expected. And as it is my practice to require as constant a correspondence to be kept up with my charity boys, when on board ship, as the nature of their situation will admit of, and as Mr. Sicard is the person who manages all matters concerning them, and enters into their interests with the most friendly anxiety, he certainly was apprised of the probability of the ship's arrival off Southend, before she came. And here I may as well, perhaps, by the way, remark, that as this correspondence with the boys is always under cover to the Captain, this circumstance may account to your Majesty for the fact, which is stated by some of the witnesses, of several letters being put into the post by Sicard, some of which he may have received from me, which were directed to Capt. Manby.

Soon after the arrival of the *Africaine*, however, Bidgood says, the Captain put off in his boat. Sicard went to meet him, and immediately brought him up to me and my ladies;—he dined there then, and came frequently to see me. It would have been as candid, if Mr. Bidgood had represented the fact as it really was, though perhaps the circumstance is not very material: that the Captain brought the two boys on shore with him to see me; and this as well as many other circumstances connected with these boys, the existence of whom, as accounting in any degree for the intercourse between me and Captain Manby, could never have been collected from out of Bidgood's depositions, Sicard would have stated, if the Commissioners had examined him to it. But though he is thus referred to, though his name is mentioned about the letters sent to Captain Manby, he does not appear to have been examined to any of them, and all that he appears to have been asked is, as to his remembering Capt. Manby visiting at Montague House, and to my paying the expense of the linen furniture for his cabin. But Mr. Sicard was, I

suppose, represented by my enemies to be a confidant, from whom no truth could be extracted, and therefore that it was idle waste of time to examine him to such points; and so unquestionably he, and every other honest servant in my family, who could be supposed to know any thing upon the subject, were sure to be represented by those, whose conspiracy and falsehood, their honesty and truth were the best means of detecting. The conspirators, however, had the first word, and unfortunately their veracity was not questioned, nor their unfavourable bias suspected.

Mr. Bidgood then proceeds to state the situation of the houses, two of which, with a part of a third I had at Southend. He describes No. 9, as the house in which I slept; No. 8, as that in which we dined; and No. 7, as containing a drawing-room, to which we retired after dinner. And he says, “I have several times seen the Princess, after having gone to No. 7, with Captain Manby and the rest of the company, retire with Captain Manby from No. 7, through No. 8, to No. 9, which was the house where the Princess slept. I *suspect* that Captain Manby slept very frequently in the house.—Hints were given by the servants, and I believe that others suspected it as well as myself.” What those hints were, by what servants given, are things which do not seem to have been thought necessary matters of inquiry. At least there is no trace in Mr. Bidgood’s, or any other witness’s examination, of any such inquiry having been made.

In his second deposition, which applies to the same fact, after saying that we went away the day after the *Africaine* sailed from Southend, he says, “Captain Manby was there three times a week at the least, whilst his ship lay for six weeks off Southend at the Nore;—he came as tide served in a morning, and to dine, and drink tea. I have seen him *next* morning by ten o’clock. I suspected he slept at No. 9, the Princess’s.—She always put out the candles herself in the drawing-room at No. 9, and bid me not wait to put them up. She gave me the

“ orders as soon as she went to Southend. I used to  
“ see water jugs, basons, and towels, set out opposite  
“ the Princess’s door in the passage. Never saw them  
“ so left in the passage at any other time, and I sus-  
“ pected he was there at that time; there was a gene-  
“ ral suspicion through the house. Mrs. and Miss  
“ Fitzgerald there, and Miss Hammond (now Mrs.  
“ Hood) there. My suspicion arose from seeing them  
“ in the glass,” &c. as mentioned before. “ Her be-  
“ haviour like that of a woman attached to a man;  
“ used to be by themselves at luncheon, at Southend,  
“ when the ladies were not sent for; a number of  
“ times. There was a pony which Captain Manby  
“ used to ride; it stood in the stable ready for him,  
“ and which Sicard used to ride.” Then he says, the  
servants used to talk and laugh about Captain Manby,  
and that it was a matter of discourse amongst them; and  
this, with what has been alluded to before, respecting  
Sicard’s putting letters for him into the post, which he  
had received from me, contains the whole of his depo-  
sition as far as respects Captain Manby. And, Sire,  
as to the fact of retiring through No. 8, from No. 7, to  
No. 9, alone with Captain Manby, I have no recollec-  
tion of ever having gone with Captain Manby, though  
but for a moment, from the one room in which the  
company was sitting, through the dining-room to the  
other drawing-room. It is, however, now above two  
years ago, and to be confident that such a circumstance  
might not have happened, is more than I will under-  
take to be. But in the only sense in which he uses  
the expression, as retiring alone, coupled with the im-  
mediate context that follows, it is most false and  
scandalous. I know no means of absolutely proving  
a negative. If the fact was true, there must have  
been other witnesses who could have proved it as well  
as Mr. Bidgood. Mrs. Fitzgerald is the only person  
of the party, who was examined, and her evidence  
proves the negative, so far as the negative can be  
proved; for she says, “ he dined there, but never staid  
“ late. She was at Southend all the time I was there,  
“ and cannot recollect to have seen Captain Manby

“ there, or known him to be there, later than nine, or half past nine.” Miss Fitzgerald and Miss Hammond (now Mrs. Hood) are not called to this fact; although a fact so extremely important, as it must appear to your Majesty; nor indeed are they examined at all.

As to the putting out of the candles, it seems he says, I gave the orders as soon as I went to Southend, which was six weeks before the *Africaine* arrived; so this plan of excluding him from the opportunity of knowing what was going on at No. 9, was part of a long meditated scheme, as he would represent it, planned and thought of six weeks before it could be executed; and which when it was executed, your Majesty will recollect, according to Mr. Bidgood’s evidence, there was so little contrivance to conceal, that the basons and towels, which the Captain is insinuated to have used, were exposed to sight, as if to declare that he was there.

It is tedious and disgusting, Sire, I am well aware, to trouble your Majesty with such particulars;—but it doubtless, is true, that I bid him not to take the candles away from No. 9. The candles which are used in my drawing-room, are considered as his perquisites. Those, on the contrary, which are used in my private apartment, are the perquisites of my maid. I thought that upon the whole it was a fairer arrangement, when I was at Southend, to give my maid the perquisites of the candles used at No. 9; and I made the arrangement accordingly, and ordered Mr. Bidgood to leave them. This, Sire, is the true account of the fact respecting the candles; an arrangement which, very possibly, Mr. Bidgood did not like.

But the putting out the candles myself, was not the only thing, from which the inference is drawn, that Captain Manby slept at my house, at No. 9, and as is evidently insinuated, if not stated, in my bed-room. There were water-jugs, and basons, and towels left in the passage, which Mr. Bidgood never saw at other times. At what other times does he mean? At other

times than those at which he suspected, from seeing them there, that Captain Manby slept in my house? If, every time he saw the basons and towels, &c. in the passage, he suspected Capt. Manby slept there, it certainly would follow that he never saw them at times when he did not suspect that fact. But, Sire, upon this important fact, important to the extent of convicting me, if it were true, of High Treason, if it were not for the indignation which such scandalous, licentious wickedness and malice excite, it would hardly be possible to treat it with any gravity. Whether there were or were not basons and towels sometimes left in a passage at Southend, which were not there generally, and ought to have been never there, I really cannot inform your Majesty. It certainly is possible; but the utmost it can prove, I should trust, might be some slovenliness in my servant, who did not put them in their proper places; but surely it must be left to Mr. Bidgood alone to trace any evidence, from such a circumstance, of the crime of adultery in me. But I cannot thus leave this fact, for I trust I shall here again have the same advantage from the excess and extravagance of this man's malice, as I have already had on the other part of the charge, from the excess and extravagance of his confederate Lady Douglas.

What is the charge that he would insinuate? That I meditated and effected a stolen, secret, clandestine intercourse with an adulterer? No.—Captain Manby, it seems according to his insinuation, slept with me in my own house, under circumstances, of such notoriety that it was impossible that any of my female attendants at least should not have known it. Their duties were varied on the occasion; they had to supply basons and towels in places where they never were supplied, except when prepared for him; and they were not only purposefully so prepared, but prepared in an open passage, exposed to view, in a manner to excite the suspicion of those who were not admitted into the secret. And what a secret was it, that was thus to be hazarded! No less than what, if discovered, would fix Capt. Manby and myself with high treason! Not only therefore must I have



been thus careless of reputation, and eager for infamy ; but I must have been careless of my life, as of my honour.—Lost to all sense of shame, surely I must have still retained some regard for life. Capt. Manby too, with a folly and madness equal to his supposed iniquity, must then have put his life into the hands of my servants, and depended for his safety upon their fidelity to me, and their perfidy to the Prince their master. If the excess of vice and crime in all this is believed, could its indiscretion, its madness find credulity to adopt it almost upon an evidence? But what must be the state of that man's mind, as to prejudice, who could come to the conclusion of believing it, from the fact of some water-jugs and towels being found in an unusual place, in a passage near my bed-room? For as to his suspicion being raised by what he says he saw in the looking-glass, if it was as true as it is false, that could not occasion his believing, on any particular night, that Captain Manby slept in my house ; the situation of these towels and basons is what leads to that belief.

But, Sire, may I ask, did the Commissioners believe this man's suspicions? If they did, what do they mean by saying that these facts of great indecency, &c. went to a much less extent than the principal charges? And that it was not for them to state their bearing and effect? The bearing of this fact unquestionably, if believed, is the same as that of the principal charge : namely, to prove me guilty of High Treason. They therefore could not believe it. But if they did not believe it, and as it seems to me, Sire, no men of common judgment could, on such a statement, how could they bring themselves to name Mr. Bidgood as one of those witnesses on whose unbiassed testimony they could so rely? or how could they, (in pointing him out with the other three as speaking to facts, *particularly with respect to Captain Manby*, which must be credited till decidedly contradicted) omit to specify the facts which he spoke to, that they thus thought worthy of belief, but leave the whole, including this incredible part of it, recommended to belief by their general and unqualified sanction and approbation.

But the falsehood of this charge does not rest on its incredibility alone. My servant, Mrs. Sander, who attended constantly on my person, and whose bedroom was close to mine, was examined by the Commissioners; she must have known this fact if it had been true; she positively swears, "that she did not know or believe, that Captain Manby staid till very late hours with me; that she never suspected there was any improper familiarity between us." M. Wilson, who made my bed, swears, that she had been in the habit of making it ever since she lived with me, that another maid, whose name was Ann Bye, assisted her in making it, and swears from what she observed, that she never had any reason to believe that two persons had slept in it. Referring thus by name to her fellow-servant, who made the bed with her, but that servant, why I know not, is not examined.

As your Majesty then finds the inference drawn by Bidgood to amount to a fact so openly and undisguis'dly profligate, as to outrage all credibility, as your Majesty finds it negatived by the evidence of three witnesses, one of whom, in particular, if such a fact were true, must have known it; as your Majesty finds one witness appealing to another, who is pointed out as a person who must have been able, with equal means of knowledge, to have confirmed her if she spoke true, and to have contradicted her if she spoke false. And, Sire, when added to all this, your Majesty is graciously pleased to recollect that Mr. Bidgood was one of those who, though in my service, submitted themselves voluntarily to be examined previous to the appointment of the Commissioners, in confirmation of Lady Douglas's statement, without informing me of the fact; and when I state to your Majesty, upon the evidence of Philip Krackeler and Robert Eaglestone, whose deposition I annex, that this unbiassed witness, during the pendency of these examinations before the Commissioners, was seen to be in conference and communication with Lady Douglas, my most ostensible accuser, do I raise my expectations too high, when I confidently trust that his malice, and his falsehood, as

well as his connection in this conspiracy against my honour, my station in this kingdom, and my life, will appear to your Majesty too plainly for him to receive any credit, either in this or any other part of his testimony?

The other circumstances, to which he speaks, are comparatively too trifling for me to trouble your Majesty with any more observations upon his evidence.

The remaining part of the case, which respects Captain Manby, relates to my conduct at East Cliff.

How little Mrs. Lisle's examination affords for observations upon this part of the case, except as shewing how very seldom Captain Manby called upon me while I was there, I have already observed. Mr. Cole says nothing upon this part of the case; nor Mr. Bidgood. The only witness amongst the four whose testimonies are distinguished by the Commissioners as most material, and as those on which they particularly rely, who says any thing upon this part of the case, is Fanny Lloyd. Her deposition is as follows:

" I was at Ramsgate with the Princess in 1803.  
" One morning, when we were in the house at East  
" Cliff, somebody, I don't recollect who, knocked at  
" my door, and desired me to prepare breakfast for the  
" Princess. This was about six o'clock; I was asleep.  
" During the whole time I was in the Princess's service,  
" I had never been called up before to make the  
" Princess's breakfast. I slept in the house-keeper's  
" room, on the ground-floor. I opened the shutters  
" of the window for light. I knew at that time that  
" Captain Manby's ship was in the Downs. When  
" I opened the shutters, I saw the Princess, walking  
" down the Gravel-Walk towards the sea. No orders  
" had been given me over-night to prepare breakfast  
" early. The gentleman the Princess was with was a  
" tall man. I was surprised to see the Princess walking  
" with a gentleman at that time in the morning.  
" I am sure it was the Princess."

What this evidence of Fanny Lloyd implies, I do not feel certain that I recollect. The circumstances which she mentions might, I think, have occurred

twice while I was there, and which time she alludes to, I cannot pretend to say. I mean on occasion of two water parties, which I intended; one of which did not take place at all, and the other not so early in the day as was intended, nor was its object effected.—Once I intended to pay Admiral Montague a visit to Deal. But, wind and tide not serving, we sailed much later than we intended; and instead of landing at Deal, the Admiral came on board our vessel, and we returned to East Cliff in the evening, on which occasion Captain Manby was not of the party, nor was he in the Downs—but it is very possible, that having prepared to set off early, I might have walked down towards the sea, and been seen by Fanny Lloyd. On the other occasion, Captain Manby was to have been of the party, and it was to have been on board his ship. I desired him to be early at my house in the morning, and if the day suited me, we would go. He came; I walked with him towards the sea, to look at the morning; I did not like the appearance of the weather, and did not go to sea. Upon either of these occasions Fanny Lloyd might have been called up to make breakfast, and might have seen me walking. As to the orders not having been given her over night, to that I can say nothing.

But upon this statement, what inference can be intended to be drawn from this fact? It is the only one in which F. Lloyd's evidence can in any degree be applied to Captain Manby, and she is one of the important witnesses referred to, as proving something which must, particularly as with regard to Captain Manby, be credited till contradicted, and as deserving the most serious consideration. From the examination of Mrs. Fitzgerald I collect, that she was asked whether Captain Manby ever slept in the house at East Cliff, to which she, to the best of her knowledge, answers in the negative. Is this evidence then of Fanny Lloyd's relied upon to afford an inference that Captain Manby slept in my house? or was there at an improper hour? or in a manner, and under circumstances, which afforded reason for unfavourable interpretations? If this were so, can it be believed that I

would, under such circumstances, have taken a step, such as calling for breakfast, at an unusual hour, which must have made the fact more notorious and remarkable, and brought the attention of the servants, who must have waited at the breakfast, more particularly and pointedly to it?

But if there is any thing which rests, or is supposed to rest, upon the credit of this witness—though she is one of the four, whose credit your Majesty will recollect it has been stated that there was no reason to question, yet she stands in a predicament in which, in general, at least, I had understood it to be supposed, that the credit of a witness was not only questionable, but materially shaken. For, towards the beginning of her examination, she states, that Mr. Mills attended her for a cold; he asked her if the Prince came to Blackheath backwards and forwards; or something to that effect: for the Princess was with child; or looked as if she was with child. This must have been three or four years ago. She thought it must be sometime before the child (W. Austin) was brought to the Princess. To this fact she positively swears, and in this she is as positively contradicted by Mr. Mills; for he swears, in his deposition before the Commissioners, that he never did say to her, or any one, that the Princess was with child, or looked as if she was with child;—that he never thought so nor surmised any thing of the kind. Mr. Mills has a partner, Mr. Edmeads. The Commissioners therefore, conceiving that Fanny Lloyd might have mistaken one of the partners for the other, examine Mr. Edmeads also. Mr. Edmeads, in his deposition, is equally positive that he never said any such thing—so the matter rests upon these depositions; and upon that state of it, what pretence is there for saying, that a witness who swears to a conversation with a medical person, who attended me, of so extremely important a nature; and is so expressly and decidedly contradicted in the important fact which she speaks to, is a witness whose credit there appears no reason to question? This important



circumstance must surely have been overlooked when that statement was made.

But this fact of Mr. Mills and Mr. Edmeads's contradiction of Fanny Lloyd, appears to your Majesty, for the first time, from the examination before the Commissioners.—But this is the fact which I charge as having been known to those, who are concerned in bringing forward this information, and which, nevertheless, was not communicated to your Majesty.—The fact that Fanny Lloyd declared, that Mr. Mills told her the Princess was with child, is stated in the declarations which were delivered to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and by him forwarded to your Majesty. The fact that Mr. Mills denied ever having so said, though known at the same time, is not stated.

That I may not appear to have represented so strange a fact, without sufficient authority, I subjoin the declaration of Mr. Mills, and the deposition of Mr. Edmeades, which prove it. Fanny Lloyd's original declaration which was delivered to his Royal Highness, is dated on the 12th of February. It appears to have been taken at the Temple; I conclude therefore at the chambers of Mr. Lowten, Sir John Douglas's solicitor, who, according to Mr. Cole, accompanied him to Cheltenham to procure some of these declarations. On the 13th of February, the next day after Fanny Lloyd's declaration, the Earl of Moira sends for Mr. Mills upon pressing business. Mr. Mills attends him on the 14th; he is asked by his Lordship upon the subject of this conversation; he is told he may rely upon his Lordship's honour, that what passed should be in perfect confidence; (a confidence which Mr. Mills, feeling it to be on a subject too important to his character, at the moment disclaims;)—that it was his (the Earl of Moira's) duty to his Prince, as his counsellor, to inquire into the subject, which he had known for some time. Fanny Lloyd's statement being then related to Mr. Mills, Mr. Mills, with great warmth, declared that it was an infamous falsehood.—Mr. Lowten, who appears also to have been there by

appointment, was called into the room, and he furnished Mr. Mills with the date to which Fanny Lloyd's declaration applied. The meeting ends in Lord Moira's desiring to see Mr. Mills's partner, Mr. Edmeades, who, not being at home, cannot attend him for a few days. He does, however, upon his return, attend him on the 20th of May: on his attendance, instead of Mr. Lowten, he finds Mr. Conant, the magistrate, with Lord Moira. He denies the conversation with Fanny Lloyd, as positively and peremptorily as Mr. Mills. Notwithstanding however all this, the declaration of Fanny Lloyd is delivered to his Royal Highness, and accompanied by these contradictions, and forwarded to your Majesty on the 29th. That Mr. Lowten was the solicitor of Sir John Douglas in this business, cannot be doubted, that he took some of those declarations, which were laid before your Majesty, is clear; and that he took this declaration of Fanny Lloyd's, seems not to be questionable. That the Inquiry by Earl Moira, two days after her declaration was taken, must have been in consequence of an early communication of it to him, seems necessarily to follow from what is above stated; that it was known, on the 14th May, that Mr. Mills contradicted this assertion; and, on the 20th, that Mr. Edmeades did, is perfectly clear; and yet, notwithstanding all this, the fact, that Mr. Edmeades and Mr. Mills contradicted it, seems to have been not communicated to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, for he, as it appears from the report, forwarded the declarations which had been delivered to his Royal Highness, through the Chancellor, to your Majesty: and the declaration of Fanny Lloyd, which had been so falsified, to the knowledge of the Earl Moira and of Mr. Lowten, the solicitor for Sir John Douglas, is sent in to your Majesty as one of the documents, on which you were to ground your Inquiry, unaccompanied by its falsification by Mills and Edmeades; at least, no declarations by them are amongst those, which are transmitted to me, as copies of the original declarations which were laid before your Majesty. I know not whether it was Lord

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Moira, or Mr. Lowten, who should have communicated this circumstance to his Royal Highness; but that, in all fairness, it ought unquestionably to have been communicated by some one.

I dare not trust myself with any inferences from this proceeding; I content myself with remarking, that it must now be felt, that I was justified in saying, that neither his Royal Highness, nor your Majesty, any more than myself, had been fairly dealt with, in not being fully informed upon this important fact; and your Majesty will forgive a weak, unprotected woman, like myself, who, under such circumstances, should apprehend that, however Sir John and Lady Douglas may appear my ostensible accusers, I have other enemies, whose ill-will I may have occasion to fear, without feeling myself assured, that it will be strictly regulated, in its proceeding against me, by the principles of fairness and of justice.

I have now, Sire, gone through all the evidence which respects Captain Manby; whether at Montague House, Southend, or East Cliff, and I do trust, that your majesty will see, upon the whole of it, how mistaken a view the Commissioners have taken of it. The pressure of other duties engrossing their time and their attention, has made them leave the important duties of this investigation, in many particulars, imperfectly discharged—a more thorough attention to it must have given them a better and truer insight into the characters of those witnesses, upon whose credit, as I am convinced, your Majesty will now see, they have without sufficient reason relied. There remains nothing for me, on this part of the charge, to perform; but, advertng to the circumstance which is falsely sworn against me by Mr. Bidgood, of the salute and the false inference and insinuation, from other facts, that Capt. Manby slept in my house, either at Southend or East Cliff, on my own part most solemnly to declare, that they are both utterly false; that Bidgood's assertion as to the salute, is a malicious slanderous invention, without the slightest shadow of truth to support it; that his suspicions and insinuations, as to Captain Manby's having slept in my house, are also the false suggestions

of his own malicious mind; and that Capt. Manby never did, to my knowledge or belief, sleep in my house at Southend, East Cliff, or any other house of mine whatever; and, however often he may have been in my company, I solemnly protest to your Majesty, as I have done in the former cases, that nothing ever passed between him and me, that I should be ashamed, or unwilling that all the world should have seen. And I have also, with great pain, and with a deep sense of wounded delicacy, applied to Captain Manby to attest to the same truths, and I subjoin to this letter his deposition to that effect.

I stated to your Majesty, that I should be obliged to return to other parts of Fanny Lloyd's testimony; at the end of it she says, "I never told Cole that M. Wilson, when she supposed the Princess to be in the library, had gone into the Princess's bed-room, and had found a man there at breakfast with the Princess; or that there was a great to do about it, and that M. Wilson was sworn to secrecy, and threatened to be turned away, if she divulged what she had seen." This part of her examination, your Majesty will perceive, must have been called from her, by some precise question, addressed to her, with respect to a supposed communication from her to Mr. Cole. In Mr. Cole's examination, there is not one word upon the subject of it. In his original declaration, however there is; and there your Majesty will perceive, that he affirms the fact of her having reported to him Mary Wilson's declaration in the very same words in which Fanny Lloyd denies it, and it is therefore evident that the Commissioners, in putting this question to Fanny Lloyd, must have put it to her from Cole's declaration. She positively denies the fact; there is then a flat and precise contradiction, between the examination of Fanny Lloyd and the original statement of Mr. Cole. It is therefore impossible that they both can have spoken true. The Commissioners, for some reason, don't examine Cole to this point at all; don't endeavour to trace out this story; if they had, they must have discovered which of these witnesses spoke the truth, but they leave this contradiction, not only unexplained, but uninquired

after, and in that state, report both these witnesses, Cole and Fanny Lloyd, who thus speak to the two sides of a contradiction, and who therefore cannot by possibility both speak truth, as witnesses who cannot be suspected of partiality, whose credit they see no reason to question, and whose story must be believed till contradicted.

But what is, if possible, still more extraordinary, this supposed communication from F. Lloyd to Cole, as your Majesty observes, relates to something which M. Wilson is supposed to have seen and to have said; yet though M. Wilson appears herself to have been examined by the Commissioners on the same day with Fanny Lloyd, in the copy of her examination, as delivered to me, there is no trace of any question relating to this declaration having been put to her.

And I have not less reason to lament, than to be surprised, that it did not occur to the Commissioners to see the necessity of following this Inquiry still further. For, if properly pursued, it would have demonstrated two things, both very important to be kept in mind in the whole of this consideration. First, how hearsay representations of this kind, arising out of little or nothing, become magnified and exaggerated by the circulation of prejudiced, or malicious, reporters; and, secondly, it would have shewn the industry of Mr. and Mrs. Bidgood, as well as Mr. Cole, in collecting information in support of Lady Douglas's statement, and in improving what they collected by their false colourings, and malicious additions to it. They would have found a story in Mrs. Bidgood's declaration, as well as in her husband's, (who relates it as having heard it from his wife,) which is evidently the same as that which W. Cole's declaration contains. For the Bidgood's declarations state, that Fanny Lloyd told Mrs. Bidgood that Mary Wilson had gone into the Princess's bed room, and had found her Royal Highness and Sir Sidney in the most criminal situation: that she had left the room, and was so shocked, that she fainted away at the door. Here then are Mrs. Bidgood and Mr. Cole both declaring what they had heard Fanny Lloyd say, and Fanny Lloyd denying it.



How extraordinary is it that they were not all confronted! and your Majesty will see presently how much it is to be lamented that they were not. For, from Fanny Lloyd's original declaration, it appears that the truth would have come out. As she there states that, "To the best of her knowledge Mary Wilson said, that she had seen the Princess and Sir Sidney *in the Blue Room*, but never heard Mary Wilson say she was so alarmed as to be in a fit." If then, on confronting Fanny Lloyd with Mrs. Bidgood and Mr. Cole, the Commissioners had found Fanny Lloyd's story to be what she related before, and had then put the question to Mary Wilson, and had heard from her what it really was which she had seen and related to Fanny Lloyd, they could not have been at a loss to have discovered which of these witnesses told the truth. They would have found, I am perfectly confident, that all that Mary Wilson ever could have told Fanny Lloyd, was that she had seen Sir Sidney Smith and myself in the Blue Room, and they would then have had to refer to the malicious and confederated inventions of the Bidgoods and Mr. Cole, for the conversion of the blue-room into the bed-room; for the vile slander of what M. Wilson was supposed to have seen, and for the violent effect which this scene had upon her. I say their *confederated inventions*, as it is impossible to suppose that they could have been concerned in inventing the same additions to Fanny Lloyd's story, unless they had communicated together upon it. And when they had once found Mrs. Bidgood and Mr. Cole, thus conspiring together, they would have had no difficulty in connecting them both in the same conspiracy with Sir John Douglas, by shewing how connected Cole was with Sir John Douglas, and how acquainted with his proceedings, in collecting the evidence which was to support Lady Douglas's declaration.

For, by referring to Mr. Cole's declaration, made on the 23d of February, they would have seen that Mr. Cole, in explaining some observation about Sir Sidney's supposed possession of a key to the garden door, says that it was what "Mr. Lampert, the servant of

“ Sir John Douglas, mentioned at Cheltenham to Sir John Douglas and Mr. Lowten.”—How should Mr. Cole know that Sir John Douglas and Mr. Lowten had been down to Cheltenham, to collect evidence from this old servant of Sir John Douglas’s? How should he have known what that evidence was, unless he had either accompanied them himself, or, at least, had had such a communication either with Sir John Douglas, or Mr. Lowten, as it never could have occurred to any of them to have made to Mr. Cole, unless, instead of being a mere witness, he were a party to this accusation? But whether they had convinced themselves, that Fanny Lloyd spoke true, and Cole and Mrs. Bidgood falsely; or whether they had convinced themselves of the reverse, it could not have been possible, that they both could have spoken the truth; and, consequently, the Commissioners could never have reported the veracity of both to be free from suspicion, and deserving of credit.

There only remains that I should make a few observations on what appears in the examinations relative to Mr. Hood, (now Lord Hood,) Mr. Chester, and Captain Moore. And I really should not have thought a single observation necessary upon either of them, except that what refers to them is stated in the examinations of Mrs. Lisle.

With respect to Lord Hood it is as follows:

“ I was at Catherington with the Princess;—remember Mr. (now Lord Hood) there, and the Princess going out airing with him, alone in Mr. Hood’s little whiskey; and his servant was with them; Mr. Hood drove, and staid out two or three times;—more than once, three or four times. Mr. Hood dined with us several times; once or twice he slept in a house in the garden; she appeared to pay no attention to him, but that of common civility to an intimate acquaintance.” Now, Sire, it is undoubtedly true that I drove out several times with Lord Hood in his one horse chaise, and some few times, twice I believe at most, without any of my servants attending us; and considering the time of life, and the respectable character of my Lord Hood, I never should have con-

ceived that I incurred the least danger to my reputation in so doing. If indeed it was the duty of the Commissioners to inquire into instances of my conduct, in which they may conceive it to have been less reserved and dignified, than what would properly become the exalted station which I hold in your Majesty's Royal Family, it is possible that, in the opinions of some, these drives with my Lord Hood were not consistent with that station; and that they were particularly improper in those instances in which we were not attended by more servants, or any servants of my own. Upon this I have only to observe, that these instances occurred after I had received the news of the lamented death of your Majesty's brother, the Duke of Gloucester. I was at that time down by the sea side for my health. I did not like to forego the advantage of air and exercise for the short remainder of the time which I had to stay there; and I purposely chose to go out, not in my own carriage, and unattended, that I might not be seen, and known to be driving about (myself and my attendants out of mourning) while his Royal Highness was known to have been so recently dead. This statement, however, is all that I have to make upon my part of the case, and whatever indecorum or impropriety of behaviour the Commissioners have fixed upon me by this circumstance, it must remain; for I cannot deny the truth of the fact, and have only the above explanation to offer of it. As to what Mrs. Lisle's examination contains with respect to Mr. Chester and Captain Moore, it is so connected, that I must trouble your Majesty with the statement of it altogether.

"I was with her Royal Highness at Lady Sheffield's, at Christmas, in Sussex; I inquired what company was there when I came;—she said, only Mr. John Chester, who was there by her Royal Highness's orders; that she could get no other company to meet her, on account of the roads, and the season of the year. He dined and slept there that night; the next day other company came. Mr. Chester remained. I heard her Royal Highness say she had been ill in the

night, and came out for a light, and lighted her candle in her servant's room. I returned from Sheffield-place to Blackheath with the Princess; Captain Moore dined there; I left him and the Princess twice alone, for a short time; he might be alone half an hour with her in the room below, in which we had been sitting. I went to look for a book to complete a set her Royal Highness was lending Captain Moore. She made him a present of an inkstand, to the best of my recollection. He was there one morning in January last, on the Princess Charlotte's birth-day; he went away before the rest of the company. It might be about twenty minutes the second time I was away, the night Captain Moore was there. At Lady Sheffield's her Royal Highness paid more attention to Mr. Chester than to the rest of the company. I know of her Royal Highness walking out alone, twice, with Mr. Chester in the morning alone; once, a short time it rained, the other not an hour, not long. Mr. Chester is a pretty young man; her attentions to him were not uncommon; not the same as to Captain Manby."

And first, Sire, as to what relates to Mr. Chester. If there is any imputation to be cast upon my character by what passed at Sheffield-place with Mr. Chester, (and by the Commissioners returning to examine Mrs. Lisle upon my attention to Mr. Chester, my walking out with him, and, above all, "as to his being a pretty young man," I conceive it to be so intended) I am sure your Majesty will see that it is the hardest thing imaginable upon me, that, upon an occurrence which passed in Lady Sheffield's house, on a visit to her, Lady Sheffield herself was never examined; for if she had been, I am convinced that these Noble Lords, the Commissioners, never could have put me to the painful degradation of stating any thing upon this subject.

The statement begins by Mrs. Lisle's inquiring, what company was there? and Lady Sheffield saying, "only Mr. John Chester, who was there by her Royal Highness's orders; that she could get no other company on account of the roads." Is not this, sire, left

open to the inference that Mr. John Chester was the only person who had been invited by my orders? If Lady Sheffield had been examined, she would have been able to have produced the very letter in which, in answer to her ladyship's request, that I would let her know what company it would be agreeable for me to meet, I said, "every thing of the name of North, all the Legges, and Chesters, William and John, &c. &c. and Mr. Elliott." Instead of singling out, therefore, Mr. John Chester, I included him in the enumeration which I made of the near relations of Lady Sheffield; and your Majesty from this alone cannot fail to see how false a colour, even a true fact can assume, if it be not sufficiently inquired into and explained.

As to the circumstances of my having been taken ill in the night, being obliged to get up and light my candle; why this fact should be recorded, I am wholly at a loss to conceive. All the circumstances, however, respecting it, connected very much as they are with the particular disposition of Lady Sheffield's house, would have been fully explained, if thought material to have been inquired after, by Lady Sheffield herself; and I should have been relieved from the painful degradation of alluding at all to a circumstance which I could not further detail, without a great degree of indelicacy; and as I cannot possibly suppose such a detail can be necessary for my defence, it would, especially in addressing your Majesty, be wholly inexcusable. With respect to the attention which I paid to Mr. Chester, and my walking out twice alone with him for a *short time*, I know not how to notice it. At this distance of time I am not certain that I can, with perfect accuracy, account for the circumstance. It appears to have been a rainy morning; it was on the 27th or 28th of December; and whether, wishing to take a walk, I did not desire Lady Sheffield, or Mrs. Lisle, or any Lady to accompany me in doing what, in such a morning, I might think might be disagreeable to them, I really cannot precisely state to your Majesty.

But here again, perhaps, in the judgment of some



persons, may be an instance of familiarity which was not consistent with the dignity of the Princess of Wales ; but surely prejudice against me and my character must exceed all natural bounds in those minds in which any inference of crime, or moral depravity can be drawn from such a fact.

As to Captain Moore, it seems he was left alone with me, and twice in one afternoon by Mrs. Lisle ; he was alone with me half an hour. The first time Mrs. Lisle left us, her examination says, it was to look for a book which I wished to lend to Captain Moore. How long she was absent on that occasion she is not asked, but it could have been but ten minutes, as she appears to have been absent twenty minutes the second time. The Commissioners, though they particularly return to the inquiry with respect to the length of time of her second absence, did not require her to tell them the occasion of it : if they had, she would have told them, that it was in search of the same book ; that having on the first occasion looked for it in the drawing-room, she went afterwards to see for it in Mrs. Fitzgerald's room.—But I made him a present of an inkstand. I hope your Majesty will not think I am trifling with your patience when I take notice of such trifles. But it is of such trifles as these that the evidence consists, when it is the evidence of respectable witnesses speaking to facts, and consequently speaking only the truth : Captain Moore had conferred on me what I felt as a considerable obligation. My mother is very partial to the late Doctor Moore's writings. Captain Moore, as your Majesty knows, is his son, and he promised to lend me, for the purpose of sending it to my mother, a manuscript of an unpublished work of the Doctor's. In return for this civility I begged his acceptance of a trifling present.

There is one circumstance alluded to in these examinations, which I know not how to notice, and yet feel it impossible to omit :—I mean what respects certain anonymous papers, or letters, marked A. B. and C. to which Lord Cholmondeley appears to have been examined, upon the supposition of their

being my hand-writing. A letter marked A. appears, by the examination of Lady Douglas, to have been produced by her; and the two papers, marked B. and a cover, marked C. appear to have been produced by Sir John. These papers I have never seen; but I collect them to be the same as are alluded to in Lady Douglas's original declaration, and, from her representations of them, they are most infamous productions. From the stile and language of the letter, she says, Sir John Douglas, Sir Sidney Smith, and herself, would have no manner of hesitation in swearing point blank (for that is her phrase) to their being in my hand-writing; and it seems, from the statement of his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, that Sir Sidney Smith had been imposed upon to believe, that these letters and papers were really written and sent to Sir John and Lady Douglas by me. I cannot help, however, remarking to your Majesty, that, though Sir John and Lady Douglas produce these papers, and mark them, yet neither the one nor the other swears to their belief of my hand-writing; it does not, indeed, appear that they were asked the question; and when it once occurred to the Commissioners to be material to inquire whose hand-writing these papers were, I should have been much surprised at their not applying to Sir John and Lady Douglas to swear it, as in their original declaration they offer to do, if it had not been that, by that time, I suppose, the Commissioners had satisfied themselves of the true value of Sir John and Lady Douglas's oaths, and therefore did not think it worth while to ask them any further questions.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, as appears by his narrative, was convinced, by Sir Sidney Smith, that these letters came from me. His Royal Highness had been applied to by me, in consequence of my having received a formal note from Sir John, Lady Douglas, and Sir Sidney Smith, requesting an audience immediately; this was soon after my having desired to see no more of Lady Douglas. I conceived, therefore, the audience was required for the purpose of remonstrance, and explanation upon this circumstance, and

as I was determined not to alter my resolution, nor admit of any discussion upon it, I requested his Royal Highness, who happened to be acquainted with Sir Sidney Smith, to try to prevent my having any further trouble upon the subject. His Royal Highness saw Sir Sidney Smith, and being impressed by him with the belief of Lady Douglas's story, that I was the author of these anonymous letters, he did that which naturally became him under such belief; he endeavoured, for the peace of your Majesty, and the honour of the Royal Family, to keep from the knowledge of the world, what, if it had been true, would have justly reflected such infinite disgrace upon me; and it seems, from the narrative that he procured, through Sir Sidney Smith, Sir John Douglas's assurance that he would, under existing circumstances, remain quiet, if left unmolested.

"This result," his Royal Highness says, "he communicated to me the following day, and I seemed satisfied with it." And undoubtedly as he only communicated the result to me, I could not be otherwise than satisfied; for as all that I wanted was not to be obliged to see Sir John and Lady Douglas, and not to be troubled by them any more, the result of his Royal Highness's interference, through Sir Sidney Smith, was to procure me all that I wanted. I do not wonder that his Royal Highness did not mention to me the particulars of these infamous letters and drawings, which were ascribed to me; for, as long as he believed they were mine, undoubtedly it was a subject which he must have wished to avoid; but I lament, as it happens, that he did not, as I should have satisfied him, as far, at least, as any assertions of mine could have satisfied him, by declaring to him, as I do now most solemnly, that the letter is not mine, and that I know nothing whatever of the contents of it, or of the other papers; and, I trust, that his Royal Highness, and every one else who may have taken up any false impression concerning them to my prejudice, from the assertion of Sir John and Lady Douglas, will, upon my assertion, and the evidence of Lord Cholmondeley,

remove from their minds this calumnious falsehood, which, with many others, the malice of Sir John and Lady Douglas has endeavoured to fasten upon me.

To all these papers Lady Douglas states, in her declaration, that, not only herself and Sir John Douglas, but Sir Sidney Smith, would have no hesitation in swearing to be in my hand-writing.—What says Lord Choldmondeley?—"that he is perfectly acquainted with my manner of writing. Letter A. is not of my hand-writing; that the two papers marked B. appear to be written in a disguised hand; that some of the letters in them remarkably resemble mine, but, because of the disguise, he cannot say whether they are or not; as to the cover marked C. he did not see the same resemblance." Of these four papers (all of which are stated by Lady Douglas to be so clearly and plainly mine, that there can be no hesitation upon the subject) two bear no resemblance to it, and although the other two, written in a disguised hand, have some letters remarkably resembling mine, yet, I trust, I shall not upon such evidence, be subjected to so base an imputation; and really, Sir, I know not how to account for the Commissioners examining and reporting upon this subject in this manner. For I understand from Mrs. Fitzgerald, that these drawings were produced by the Commissioners to her; and that she was examined as to her knowledge of them, and as to the hand-writing upon them; that she was satisfied, and swore that they were not my hand-writing, and that she knew nothing of them, and did not believe they could possibly come from any lady in my house. She was shewn the seal also, which lady Douglas, in her declaration, says, was the "identical one with which I had summoned Sir John Douglas to luncheon." To this seal, though it so much resembled one that belonged to herself, as to make her hesitate till she had particularly observed it, she was at last as positive as to the hand-writing, and having expressed herself with some feeling and indignation at the supposition, that either I, herself, or any of my ladies, could be guilty of so foul a trans-

action, the Commissioners tell her, they were satisfied, and believed her; and there is not one word of all this related in her examination.—Now, if their Lordships were satisfied from this, or any other circumstance, that these letters were not my writing, and did not come from me, I can account for their not preserving any trace of Mrs. Fitzgerald's evidence on this point, and leaving it out of their inquiry altogether; but, if they thought proper to preserve any evidence upon it, to make it the subject of any examination, surely they should not have left it on Lord Cholmondeley's alone; but I ought to have had the benefit of Mrs. Fitzgerald's evidence also. But, as I said before, they take no notice of her evidence; nay, they finish their Report, they execute it according to the date it bears, upon the 14th of July, and it is not until two days afterwards, namely, on the 16th, that they examine Lord Cholmondeley to the hand-writing—with what view, and for what purpose, I cannot even surmise; but with whatever view, and for whatever purpose, if these letters are at all to be alluded to in their Report, or the examinations accompanying it, surely I ought to have had the benefit of the other evidence, which disproved my connection with them.

I have now, Sire, gone through all the matters contained in the examination, on which I think it, in any degree, necessary, to trouble your Majesty with any observations.—For as to the examination of Mrs. Townley the washerwoman, if it applies at all, it must have been intended to have afforded evidence of my pregnancy and miscarriage.—And whether the circumstance she speaks to was occasioned by my having been bled with leeches, or whether an actual miscarriage did take place in my family, and by some means linen belonging to me was procured and used upon the occasion; or to whatever other circumstance it is to be ascribed, after the manner in which the Commissioners have expressed their opinion, on the part of the case respecting my supposed pregnancy, and after the evidence on which they formed their opinion, I do not conceive myself called upon to say any thing upon it; or that any



thing I could say could be more satisfactory than repeating the opinion of the Commissioners, as stated in their Report, viz. "That nothing had appeared to them which would warrant the belief that I was pregnant in that year, (1802,) or at any other period within the compass of their Inquiries—that they would not be warranted in expressing any doubt respecting the alleged pregnancy of the Princess, as stated in the original declarations, a fact so fully contradicted, and by so many witnesses, to whom, if true, it must in various ways have been known, that we cannot think it entitled to the smallest credit."

There are indeed some other matters mentioned in the original declarations, which I might have found it necessary to observe upon; but as the Commissioners do not appear to have entered into any examination with respect to them, I content myself with thinking that they had found the means of satisfying themselves of the utter falsehood of those particulars, and therefore that they can require no contradiction or observation from me.

On the declaration, therefore, and the evidence I have nothing further to remark. And, conscious of the length at which I have trespassed on your Majesty's patience, I will forbear to waste your time by any endeavour to recapitulate what I have said. Some few observations, however, before I conclude, I must hope to be permitted to subjoin.

In many of the observations which I have made, your Majesty will observe that I have noticed, what have appeared to me to be great omissions on the part of the Commissioners, in the manner of taking their examinations; in forbearing to put any questions to the witnesses, in the nature of a cross-examination of them;—to confront them with each other; and to call other witnesses, whose testimony must either have confirmed or falsified, in important particulars, the examinations as they have taken them. It may perhaps occur, in consequence of such observations, that I am desirous that this inquiry should be opened again; that the Commissioners should recommence their

labours, and that they should proceed to supply the defects in their previous examinations, by a fuller execution of their duty.—I therefore think it necessary, most distinctly and emphatically to state, that I have no such meaning ; and whatever may be the risk that I may incur of being charged with betraying a consciousness of guilt, by thus flying from an extension or repetition of this Inquiry, I must distinctly state, that so far from requesting the revival of it, I humbly request your Majesty would be graciously pleased to understand me as remonstrating, and protesting against it, in the strongest and most solemn manner in my power.

I am yet to learn the legality of such a Commission to inquire, even in the case of High Treason, or any other crime known to the laws of the country. If it is lawful in the case of High Treason, supposed to be committed by me, surely it must be lawful also in the case of High Treason supposed to be committed by other subjects of your Majesty.

That there is much objection to it, in reason and principle, my understanding assures me. That such inquiries, carried on upon *ex parte* examination, and a Report of the result by persons of high authority, may, nay must, have a tendency to prejudice the character of the parties who are exposed to them, and thereby influence the further proceedings in their case ; that are calculated to keep back from notice, and in security, the person of a false accuser, and to leave the accused in the predicament of neither being able to look forward for protection to an acquittal of himself, nor for redress to the conviction of his accuser.—That these and many other objections occur to such a mode of proceeding, in the case of a crime known to the laws of this country, appears to be quite obvious.—But if Commissioners acting under such a power, or your Majesty's Privy Council, or any regular magistrates, when they have satisfied themselves of the falsehood of the principal charge, and the absence of all legal and substantive offence, are to be considered as empowered to proceed in the examination of the particulars of

private life ; to report upon the proprieties of domestic conduct ; and the decorums of private behaviour, and to pronounce their opinion against the party, upon the evidence of dissatisfied servants, whose veracity they are to hold up as unimpeachable, and to do this without permitting the persons whose conduct is inquired into, to suggest one word in explanation or contradiction of the matter with which they are charged : it would, I submit to your Majesty, prove such an attack upon the security and confidence of domestic life, such a means of recording, under the sanction of great names and high authority, the most malicious, and foulest imputations, that no character could possibly be secure ; and would do more to break in upon and undermine the happiness and comfort of life, than any proceeding which could be imagined.

The public in general, perhaps, may feel not much interest in the establishment of such a precedent in my case. They may think it to be a course of proceeding scarcely applicable to any private subject ; yet, if once such a court of honour, of decency, and of manners, was established, many subjects might occur to which it might be thought advisable to extend its jurisdiction, beyond the instance of a Princess of Wales. But should it be intended to be confined to me, your Majesty, I trust, will not be surprised to find that it does not reconcile me the better to it, should I learn myself to be the single instance in your kingdom, who is exposed to the scrutiny of so severe and formidable a tribunal. So far, therefore, from giving that sanction or consent to any fresh Inquiry, upon similar principles, which I should seem to do, by requiring the renewal of these examinations, I must protest against it ; protest against the nature of the proceeding, because its result cannot be fair. I must protest, as long at least as it remains doubtful, against the legality of what has already passed, as well as the legality of its repetition. If the course be legal, I must submit to the laws, however severe they may be. But I trust new law is not to be found out, and applied to my case,—If I am guilty of crime, I know I am amenable, I am most

contented to continue so, to the impartial laws of your Majesty's kingdom; and I fear no charge brought against me, in open day, under the public eye, before the known tribunals of the country, administering justice under those impartial and enlightened laws. But secret tribunals, created for the first time for me, to form and pronounce opinions upon my conduct, without hearing me; to record, in the evidence of the witnesses which they report, imputations against my character upon *ex parte* examinations,—till I am better reconciled to the justice of their proceedings, I cannot fail to fear. And till I am better informed as to their legality, I cannot fail, in duty to my dearest interests, most solemnly to remonstrate and to protest against them.

If such tribunals as these are called into action against me, by the false charges of friends turned enemies, of servants turned traitors, and acting as spies by the foul conspiracy of such social and domestic treason; I can look to no security, to my honour, in the most spotless and most cautious innocence.

By the contradiction and denial which in this case I have been enabled to procure, of the most important facts which have been sworn against me by Mr. Cole and Mr. Bidgood;—by the observations, and the reasonings, which I have addressed to your Majesty, I am confident, that to those whose sense of justice will lead them to wade through this long detail, I shall have removed the impressions which have been raised against me.—But how am I to insure a patient attention to all this statement? How many will hear that the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice of the King's Bench, the First Lord of the Treasury, and one of your Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, have reported against me, upon evidence which they have declared to be unbiassed and unquestionable; who will never have the opportunity, or if they had the opportunity, might not have the inclination, to correct the error of that Report, by the examination of my statement.

I feel, therefore, that by this proceeding, my charac-

ter has received essential injury. For a Princess of Wales to have been placed in a situation, in which it was essential to her honour to request one gentleman to swear, that he was not locked up at midnight in a room with her alone: and another, that he did not give her a lascivious salute, and never slept in her house, is to have been actually degraded and disgraced.—I have been, Sire, placed in this situation, I have been cruelly, your Majesty will permit me to say so, cruelly degraded into the necessity of making such requests. A necessity which I never could have been exposed to, even under this Inquiry, if more attention had been given to the examination of these malicious charges, and of the evidence on which they rest.

Much solicitude is felt, and justly so, as connected with this Inquiry, for the honour of your Majesty's illustrious family. But surely a true regard to that honour should have restrained those, who really felt for it, from casting such severe reflections on the character and virtue of the Princess of Wales.

If, indeed, after the most diligent and anxious Inquiry, penetrating into every circumstance connected with the charge, searching every source from which information could be derived, and scrutinizing with all that acuteness, into the credit and character of the witnesses, which great experience, talent, and intelligence could bring to such a subject; and above all, if, after giving me some opportunity of being heard, the force of truth had, at length, compelled any persons to form, as reluctantly, and as unwillingly as they would, against their own daughters, the opinion that has been pronounced; no regard, unquestionably, to my honour and character, nor to that of your Majesty's family, as, in some degree, involved in mine, could have justified the suppression of that opinion, if legally called for, in the course of official and public duty. Whether such caution and reluctance are really manifest in these proceedings, I must leave to less-partial judgments than my own to determine.

In the full examination of these proceedings, which justice to my own character has required of me, I have



been compelled to make many observations, which, I fear, may prove offensive to persons in high power—your Majesty will easily believe, when I solemnly assure you, that I have been deeply sorry to yield to the necessity of so doing. This proceeding manifests that I have enemies enough; I could not wish unnecessarily to increase their number, or their weight. I trust, however, I have done it; I know it has been my purpose to do it, in a manner as little offensive as the justice due to myself would allow of; but I have felt that I have been deeply injured; that I have had much to complain of; and that my silence now would not be taken for forbearance, but would be ascribed to me as a confession of guilt. The Report itself announced to me, that these things, which had been spoken to by the witnesses, “great improprieties and indecencies of conduct,” “necessarily occasioning most unfavourable interpretations, and serving the most serious consideration,” “must be credited till decidedly contradicted.” The most satisfactory disproof of these circumstances (as the contradiction of the accused is always received with caution and distrust) rested in the proof of the foul malice and falsehood of my accusers and their witnesses. The Report announced to your Majesty that those witnesses, whom I felt to be foul confederates in a base conspiracy against me, were not to be suspected of unfavourable bias, and their veracity, in the judgment of the Commissioners, not to be questioned.

Under these circumstances, Sire, what could I do? Could I forbear, in justice to myself, to announce to your Majesty the existence of a conspiracy against my honour, and my station in this country at least, if not against my life? Could I forbear to point out to your Majesty, how long this intended mischief had been meditated against me? Could I forbear to point out my doubts, at least, of the legality of the Commission under which the proceeding had been had? or to point out the errors and inaccuracies, into which the great and able men who were named in this commission, under the hurry and pressure of their great offi-

cial occupations, had fallen, in the execution of this duty? Could I forbear to state, and to urge, the great injustice and injury that had been done to my character and my honour, by opinions pronounced against me without hearing me? And if, in the execution of this great task, so essential to my honour, I have let drop any expressions which a colder, and more cautious prudence, would have checked, I appeal to your Majesty's warm heart, and generous feelings, to suggest my excuse, and to afford my pardon.

What I have said, I have said under the pressure of much misfortune, under the provocation of great and accumulated injustice. Oh! Sire, to be unfortunate, and scarce to feel at liberty to lament; to be cruelly used, and to feel it almost an offence and a duty to be silent is a hard lot; but use had, in some degree, injured me to it: But to find my misfortunes and my injuries imputed to me as faults; to be called to account upon a charge, made against me by Lady Douglas, who was thought at first worthy of credit, although she had pledged her veracity to the fact, of my having admitted that I was myself the aggressor in every thing, of which I had to complain, has subdued all power of patient bearing, and when I was called upon by the Commissioners, either to admit, by my silence, the guilt which they imputed to me, or to enter into my defence, in contradiction to it—no longer at liberty to remain silent, I, perhaps, have not known how, with exact propriety, to limit my expressions.

In happier days of my life, before my spirit had been yet at all lowered by my misfortunes, I should have been disposed to have met such a charge with the contempt which, I trust, by this time, your Majesty thinks due to it; I should have been disposed to have defied my enemies to the utmost, and to have scorned to answer to any thing but a legal charge, before a competent tribunal: but in my present misfortunes, such force of mind is gone. I ought, perhaps, so far to be thankful to them for their wholesome lessons of humility. I have, therefore, entered into this

long detail, to endeavour to remove, at the first possible opportunity, any unfavourable impressions; to rescue myself from the dangers which the continuance of these suspicions might occasion, and to preserve to me your Majesty's good opinion, in whose kindness, hitherto, I have found infinite consolation, and to whose justice, under all circumstances, I can confidently appeal.

Under the impression of these sentiments I throw myself at your Majesty's feet. I know, that whatever sentiments of resentment; whatever wish for redress, by the punishment of my false accusers, I ought to feel, your Majesty, as the father of a stranger, smarting under false accusation, as the head of your illustrious House dishonoured in me, and as the great guardian of the laws of your kingdom, thus foully attempted to have been applied to the purposes of injustice, will not fail to feel for me. At all events, I trust your Majesty will restore me to the blessing of your gracious presence, and confirm to me, by your own gracious words, your satisfactory conviction of my innocence.

I am,

SIRE,

With every sentiment of gratitude and loyalty,

Your Majesty's most affectionate

and dutiful Daughter-in-Law,

Subject and Servant,

C. P.

Montague House, 2d October, 1806.

*The Deposition of Thomas Manby, Esquire, a Captain in the Royal Navy.*

Having had read to me the following passage, from the Copy of a Deposition of Robert Bidgood, sworn the 6th of June last, before Lords Spencer and Grenville, viz.

"I was waiting one day in the anti-room; Captain Manby had his hat in his hand, and appeared to be going away; he was a long time with the Princess, and, as I stood on the steps, waiting, I looked into the room in which they were, and, in the reflection on the looking-glass, I saw them salute each other—I mean, that they kissed each other's lips. Captain

“ Manby then went away, I then observed the Princess have her handkerchief in her hands, and wipe her eyes, as if she was crying, and went into the drawing-room.”

I do solemnly, and upon my oath, declare, that the said passage is a vile and wicked invention; that it is wholly and absolutely false, that it is impossible he ever could have seen, in the reflection of any glass, any such thing, as I never, upon any occasion, or in any situation, ever had the presumption to salute Her Royal Highness in any such manner, or to take any such liberty, or offer any such insult to her person. And having had read to me another passage, from the same Copy of the same Deposition, in which the said Robert Bidgood says—

“ I suspected that Captain Manby slept frequently in the house; it was a subject of conversation in the house. Hints were given by the servants; and I believe that others suspected it as well as myself.”

I solemnly swear, that such suspicion is wholly unfounded, and that I never did, at Montague House, Southend, Ramsgate, East Cliff, or any where else, ever sleep in any house occupied by, or belonging to, Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and that there never did any thing pass between Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales and myself, that I should be in any degree unwilling that all the world should have seen.

(Signed) THO. MANBY.

Sworn at the Public Office,  
Hatton Garden, London,  
the 22d day of September,  
1806, before me,

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.

*The deposition of Thomas Lawrence, of Greck-street Soho, in the County of Middlesex, Portrait Painter.*

Having had read to me the following Extract from a Copy of a Deposition of William Cole, purporting to have been sworn before Lords Spencer and Grenville, the 10th day of June, 1806, viz.

“ Mr. Lawrence, the painter, used to go to Montague House about the latter end of 1801, when he was painting the Princess, and he has slept in the house two or three nights together. I have often seen him alone with the Princess at eleven or twelve o'clock at night; he has been there as late as one or two o'clock in the morning. One night I saw him with the Princess in the blue room, after the ladies had retired; sometime afterwards, when I supposed he was gone to his bed-room, I went to see that all was safe, and found the blue

“ room door locked, and heard a whispering in it, and then  
“ went away.”

I do solemnly, and upon my oath, depose that having received the commands of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales to paint her Royal Highness's portrait, and that of the Princess Charlotte; I attended for that purpose at Montague House, Blackheath, several times about the beginning of the year 1801, and having been informed that Sir William Beechey, upon a similar occasion, had slept in the house, for the greater convenience of executing his painting; and it having been intimated to me, that I might probably be allowed the same advantage, I signified my wish to avail myself of it; and accordingly I did sleep at Montague House several nights:—that frequently when employed upon this painting, and occasionally, between the close of a day's sitting and the time of Her Royal Highness dressing for dinner, I have been alone in Her Royal Highness's presence; I have likewise been graciously admitted to Her Royal Highness's presence in the evenings, and remained there till twelve, one, and two o'clock; but, I do solemnly swear, I was never alone in the presence of Her Royal Highness in an evening to the best of my recollection and belief, except in one single instance, and that for a short time, when I remained with Her Royal Highness in the blue-room, or drawing-room, as I remember, to answer some question which had been put to me, at the moment I was about to retire together with the ladies in waiting, who had been previously present as well as myself; and, though I cannot recollect the particulars of the conversation which then took place, I do solemnly swear, that nothing passed between Her Royal Highness and myself, which I could have had the least objection for all the world to have seen and heard. And I do further, upon my oath, solemnly declare, that I never was alone in the presence of Her Royal Highness in any other place, or in any other way than as above described; and that neither, upon the occasion last mentioned, nor upon any other, was I ever in the presence of Her Royal Highness, in any room whatever, with the door locked, bolted, or fastened, otherwise than in the common and usual manner, which leaves it in the power of any person on the outside of the door to open it.

(Signed) THOMAS LAWRENCE.

Sworn at the Public Office,  
Hatton Garden, this 24th  
day of September, 1806,  
before me,

(Signed) THOMAS LEACH.



To the Deposition of Mr. THOMAS EDMEADES, in page 25, and that of SAMUEL GILLAM MILLS, in page 26, we must now add the following:

DEPOSITION OF THOMAS EDMEADES, OF GREENWICH, IN THE COUNTY OF KENT, SURGEON.

“ON Tuesday, May 20, 1806, I waited upon the Earl of Moira, by his appointment; who, having introduced me to Mr. Conant, a Magistrate for Westminster, proceeded to mention a charge preferred against me by one of the female servants of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, of my having said that her Royal Highness had been pregnant. His Lordship then asked me if I had not bled her Royal Highness,—and whether at that time I did not mention to a servant, that I thought her Royal Highness in the family way,—and whether I did not also ask at the same time if the Prince had been down to Montague House? I answered, that it had never entered my mind that her Royal Highness was in such a situation; and that, therefore, certainly I never made the remark to any one, nor had I asked whether his Royal Highness had visited the House. I said, that at that time a report of the nature alluded to was prevalent, but that I treated it as the infamous lie of the day. His Lordship adverted to the circumstance of her Royal Highness's having taken a child into her house; and observed, how dreadful mistakes about Succession to the Throne were, and what confusion might be caused by any claim of this child: I observed, that I was aware of it, but repeated the assertion, that I had never *thought* of such a thing as was suggested, and therefore considered it impossible, in a manner, that I could have given it utterance. I observed, that I believed, in the first instance, Mr. Stikeman, the page, had mentioned this child to her Royal Highness, and that it came from Deptford, where I went when her Royal Highness first took it, to see if any illness prevailed in the family. Mr. Conant observed, that he believed it was not an unusual thing for a medical man, when he imagined that a Lady was

pregnant, to mention his suspicion to some confidential domestic in the family. I admitted the *bare* possibility, *if* such had been my opinion; but remarked, that the *if* must have been removed, before I could have committed myself in so absurd a manner.

“Lord Moira, in a very significant manner, with his hands behind him, his head over one shoulder, his eyes directed towards me, with a sort of smile, observed, “that he could not help thinking there must be *something* in the servant’s deposition,” as if he did not give perfect credit to what I had said. He observed, that the matter was then confined to the knowledge of a few; and that he had hoped, if there had been any foundation for the affidavit, I might have acknowledged it, that the affair might have been hushed. With respect to the minor question, I observed, that it was not probable that I should condescend to ask any such question as that imputed to me, of a menial servant, and that I was not in the habits of conferring confidentially with servants. Mr. Conant cautioned me to be on my guard; as, that if it appeared on further investigation, I had made such inquiry, it might be very unpleasant to me, should it come under the consideration of the Privy Council. I said, that I considered the report as a malicious one, and was ready to make oath before any magistrate, that I had not at any time asserted, or even thought, that her Royal Highness had ever been in a state of pregnancy since I had had the honour of attending the household. Mr. Conant asked me whether, *whilst* I was bleeding her Royal Highness, or *after* I had performed the operation, I did not make some comment on the situation of her Royal Highness from the state of the blood, and whether I recommended the operation. I answered in the negative to both questions; I said, that her Royal Highness had sent for me to bleed her, and that I did not then recollect on what account. I said, that I had bled her Royal Highness twice, but did not remember the dates. I asked Lord Moira whether he intended to proceed in the business, or whether I might consider it as at rest, that I might have an opportunity, if I thought necessary, of consulting my friends relative to the mode

of conduct I ought to adopt. He said, that if the subject was moved any further, I should be apprized of it, and that at present it was in the hands of a few. I left them; and in about an hour, on further consideration, wrote the note, of which the following is a copy, to which I never received any reply :—

“ Mr. Edmeades presents his respectful compliments to Lord Moira, and on mature deliberation, after leaving his Lordship upon the conversation which passed at Lord Moira’s this morning, he feels it necessary to advise with some friend on the propriety of making the particulars of that conversation known to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, as Mr. Edmeades would be very sorry that her Royal Highness should consider him capable of such infamous conduct as that imputed to him, on the deposition of a servant, by Lord Moira, this morning.

“ London, May 20, 1806.”

“ I have been enabled to state the substance of my interview with Lord Moira and Mr. Conant with the more particularity, as I made memorandums of it within a day or two afterwards: and I do further depose, that the papers hereunto annexed, marked A and B, are in the hand-writing of Samuel Gillam Mills, of Greenwich aforesaid, my partner; and that he is at present, as I verily believe, upon his road from Wales through Gloucester to Bath.

(Signed) “ THOMAS EDMEADES.”

“ Sworn at the Public Office,  
Hatton-Garden, this 26th  
Day of September, 1806.

(Signed) “ THOMAS LEACH.”

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(A).

MEMORANDUMS OF THE HEADS OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN  
LORD MOIRA, MR. LOWTEN, AND HIMSELF.

“ May 14, 1806.

“ May 13, 1806.—I received a letter from Lord Moira, of which the following is an exact copy.—

“ St. James’s Place, May 13, 1806.

“ SIR,—A particular circumstance makes me desire to have the pleasure of seeing you, and indeed renders it indispensable that you should take the trouble of calling on me. As the trial in Westminster Hall occupies the latter hours of the day, I must beg you to be with me as early as nine o’clock to-morrow morning. In the mean time, it will be better that you should not apprise any one of my having requested you to converse with me.

I have the honour, Sir, to be,

“ Your obedient Servant,

(Signed)

“ MOIRA.”

“ To Mr. Mills.”

“ This is the paper A. referred to by the affidavit of Thos. Edmeades, sworn before me this 26th Sept. 1806.

“ THOS. LEACH.”

(B).

“ In consequence of the above letter I waited on his Lordship exactly at nine o’clock. In less than five minutes I was admitted into his room, and by him received very politely. He began the conversation by stating he wished to converse with me on a very delicate subject—that I might rely on his honour, that what passed was to be in perfect confidence; it was his duty to his Prince, as his Counsellor, to enquire into the subject, which he had known for some time; and the enquiry was due also to my character. He then stated, that a deposition had been made by a domestic of her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, deposing, as a declaration made by me, that her Royal Highness was pregnant, and that I made enquiries when interviews might have taken place with the Prince. I answered, that I had never declared the Princess to be with child, nor ever made the enquiries stated—that the declaration was an infamous falsehood. This being expressed with some warmth, his Lordship observed that I might have made the enquiries very innocently, conceiving that her Royal Highness could not be in that situation but by the Prince. I repeated my assertion of the falsehood of the declaration, adding, that

though the conversation was intended to be confidential, I felt my character strongly attacked by the declaration, therefore it was necessary the declaration should be investigated. I had no doubt but the character I had so many years maintained, would make my assertion believed before the deposition of a domestic. I then requested to know what date the declaration bore? His Lordship said he did not remember, but he had desired the solicitor to meet me, who would shew it me. I then observed, that I should in confidence communicate to his Lordship, why I was desirous to know the date. I then stated to his Lordship, that soon after her Royal Highness came to Blackheath, I attended her in an illness, with Sir Francis Millman, in which I bled her twice. Soon after her recovery, she thought proper to form a regular medical appointment, and appointed myself and Mr. Edmeades to be surgeons and apothecaries to her Royal Highness. On receiving my warrant for such appointment, I declined accepting the honour of being appointed apothecary, being inconsistent with my character, being educated as surgeon, and having had an honorary degree of physic conferred on me. Her Royal Highness condescended to appoint me her surgeon only. His Lordship rang to know if Mr. Lowten was come: he was in the next room. His Lordship left me for a few minutes, returned and introduced me to Mr. Lowten, with much politeness as Dr. Mills, repeating the assurance of what passed being confidential. I asked Mr. Lowten the date of the declaration that had been asserted to be made by me. He said in the year 1802. I then, with permission of his Lordship, gave the history of my appointment, adding, since then I had never seen the Princess as a patient. Once she sent for me to bleed her. I was from home. Mr. Edmeades went; nor had I visited any one in the house, except one Mary, and that was in a very bad case of surgery; I was not sure whether it was before or after my appointment. Mr. Lowten asked me the date of it; I told him I did not recollect. He observed from the warmth of my expressing my contradiction to the deposition, that I saw it in a wrong light; that I might suppose, and very innocently, her



Royal Highness to be pregnant, and then the enquiries were as innocently made. I answered, that the idea of pregnancy never entered my head; that I never attended her Royal Highness in any sexual complaint; whether she ever had any I never knew. Mr. Lowten said, I might think so from her increase of size. I answered, No—I never did think her pregnant, therefore never could say it, and that the deposition was an infamous falsehood. His Lordship then observed, that he perceived there must be a mistake, and that Mr. Edmeades was the person meant, whom he wished to see. I said he was then at Oxford, and did not return before Saturday. His Lordship asked if he came through London. I said I could not tell.

“Finding nothing now arising from conversation, I asked to retire. His Lordship attended me out of the room with great politeness.

“When I came home I sent his Lordship a letter, with the date of my warrant, April 10, 1801. He answered my letter, with thanks for my immediate attention, and wished to see Mr. Edmeades on Sunday morning. This letter came on the Saturday; early on the Sunday I sent Timothy to let his Lordship know Mr. Edmeades would not return till Monday. On Tuesday I promised he should attend, which he did.

“The preceding memorandum is an exact copy of what I made the day after I had seen Lord Moira.

(Signed) “SAM. GILLAM MILLS.”

“Croome-hill, Greenwich, Aug. 20, 1806.”

“This is the paper marked B, referred to by the affidavit of Thomas Edmeades.

“Sworn before me, this 26th Sept.  
1806.

(Signed) “THOS. LEACH.”

*The Deposition of Jonathan Partridge, Porter to Lord Eardley, at Belvidere.*

REMEMBER being informed by Mr. Kenny, Lord Eardley's late Steward, now dead, that I was wanted by Lord Moira, in town; accordingly I went with Mr. Kenny to Lord Moira's in Saint James's-place, on the King's Birth-Day of 1804. His Lordship asked me, if I remembered the Princess coming to Belvidere some-time before? I said, yes, and told him that there were two or three ladies, I think three, with her Royal Highness, and a gentleman with them, who came on horse-back; that they looked at the pictures in the house, had their luncheon there, and that her Royal Highness's servants waited upon them, as I was in a dishabille. His Lordship asked me, whether they went up stairs? and I told them that they did not. He asked me, how long they staid? and I said, as far as I recollected, they did not stay above an hour, or an hour and a quarter; that they waited some little time for the carriage, which had gone to the public-house, and, till it came, they walked up and down altogether in the portico before the house. His Lordship, in the course of what he said to me, said, it was a subject of importance, and might be of consequence. His Lordship, finding that I had nothing more to say, told me I might go.

Sometime afterwards, his Lordship sent for me again, and asked me, if I was sure of what I said, being all that I could say respecting the Princess? I said, it was; and that I was ready to take my oath of it, if his Lordship thought proper. He said, it was very satisfactory; said, I might go, and he should not want me any more.

(Signed)

JONATHAN PARTRIDGE.

Sworn at the County Court of  
Middlesex, in Fulwood's  
Rents, the 25th day of Sep-  
tember, 1806, before me,

(Signed)

THOMAS LEACH.

*The Deposition of Philip Krackeler, one of the Footmen of Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and Robert Eaglestone, Park-Keeper to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.*

THESE deponents say, that on, or about the 28th day of June last, as they were walking together across Greenwich Park, they saw Robert Bidgood, one of the Pages of her Royal Highness, walking in a direction, as if he were going from the town of Greenwich; towards the house of Sir John Douglas, and which is a different road from that which leads to Montague House, and they at the same time perceived Lady Douglas walking in a direction to meet him. And this Deponent, Philip Krackeler, then desired the other Deponent to take notice, whether Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood would speak to each other: and both of these deponents observed, that when Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood met, they stopped, and conversed together for the space of about two or three minutes, whilst in view of these Deponents; but how much longer their conversation lasted these Deponents cannot say, as they, these deponents, proceeded on their road which took them out of sight of Lady Douglas and Mr. Bidgood.

(Signed) "PHILIP KRACKELER.  
"ROBT. EAGLESTONE."

Sworn at the Public Office,  
Hatton Garden, this 27th  
day of September, 1806,  
before me.

(Signed) "THOMAS LEACH."

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*To the King.*

SIRE,—I trust your Majesty who knows my constant affection, loyalty, and duty, and the sure confidence with which I readily repose my honour, my

character, my happiness in your Majesty's hands, will not think me guilty of any disrespectful or undutious impatience, when I thus again address myself to your Royal grace and justice.

It is, Sire, nine weeks to day since my counsel presented to the Lord High Chancellor my letter to your Majesty, containing my observations, in vindication of my honour and innocence upon the report, presented to your Majesty by the Commissioners who had been appointed to examine into my conduct. The Lord Chancellor informed my counsel, that the letter should be conveyed to your Majesty on that very day ; and further, was pleased, in about a week or ten days afterwards, to communicate to my Solicitor, that your Majesty had read my letter, and that it had been transmitted to his Lordship with directions that it should be copied for the Commissioners, and that when such copy had been taken, the original should be returned to your Majesty.

Your Majesty's own gracious and royal mind will easily conceive what must have been my state of anxiety and suspense, whilst I have been fondly indulging in the hope, that every day, as it passed, would bring me the happy tidings, that your Majesty was satisfied of my innocence ; and convinced of the unfounded malice of my enemies, in every part of their charge. Nine long weeks of daily expectation, and suspense, have now elapsed ; and they have brought me nothing but disappointment. I have remained in total ignorance of what has been done, what is doing, or what is intended upon this subject. Your Majesty's goodness will therefore pardon me, if in the step which I now take, I act

upon a mistaken conjecture with respect to the fact. But from the Lord Chancellor's communication to my Solicitor, and from the time which has elapsed, I am led to conclude that your Majesty had directed the copy of my letter to be laid before the Commissioners, requiring their advice upon the subject ; and, possibly, their official occupations, and their other duties to the state, may not have, as yet, allowed them the opportunity of attending to it. But your Majesty will permit me to observe that, however excusable this delay may be on their parts, yet it operates most injuriously upon me ; my feelings are severely tortured by the suspense, while my character is sinking in the opinion of the public.

It is known, that a report, though acquitting me of crime, yet imputing matters highly disreputable to my honour, has been made to your Majesty ;--- that that report has been communicated to me ;--- that I have endeavoured to answer it ; and that I still remain, at the end of nine weeks from the delivery of my answer, unacquainted with the judgment which is formed upon it. May I be permitted to observe upon the extreme prejudice which this delay, however to be accounted for by the numerous important occupations of the Commissioners, produces to my honour ? The world, in total ignorance of the real state of the facts, begin to infer my guilt from it. I feel myself already sinking in the estimation of your Majesty's subjects, as well as of what remains to me of my own family, into (a state intolerable to a mind conscious of its purity and innocence) a state in which my honour appears, at last, equivocal, and my virtue is suspected. From this state I humbly entreat your Majesty to perceive, that I can have no hope of being restored, until either your Majesty's favourable



opinion shall be graciously notified to the world, by receiving me again into the royal presence, or until the full disclosure of the facts shall expose the malice of my accusers, and do away every possible ground for unfavourable inference and conjecture.

The various calamities with which it has pleased God of late to afflict me, I have endeavoured to bear, and trust I have borne with humble resignation to the Divine will. But the effect of this infamous charge, and the delay which has suspended its final termination, by depriving me of the consolation which I should have received from your Majesty's presence and kindness, have given a heavy addition to them all ; and surely my bitterest enemies could hardly wish that they should be increased. But on this topic, as possibly not much affecting the justice, though it does the hardship of my case, I forbear to dwell.

Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to recollect, that an occasion of assembling the Royal Family and your subjects, in dutiful and happy commemoration of her Majesty's Birth-day, is now near at hand. If the increased occupations which the approach of Parliament may occasion, or any other cause, should prevent the Commissioners from enabling your Majesty to communicate your pleasure to me before that time, the world will infallibly conclude (in their present state of ignorance) that my answer must have proved unsatisfactory, and that the infamous charges have been thought but too true.

These considerations, Sire, will, I trust, in your Majesty's gracious opinion, rescue this address from all imputation of impatience. For your Majesty's sense of honourable feeling will naturally suggest, how utterly impossible it is that I, conscious of my own innocence, and believing that the malice of my enemies has been completely detected, can, without abandoning all regard to my interests, my happiness, and my honour, possibly be contented to perceive the approach

of such utter ruin to my character, and yet wait, with patience and in silence, till it overwhelms me. I therefore take this liberty of throwing myself again at your Majesty's feet, and intreating and imploring of your Majesty's goodness and justice, in pity for my miseries which this delay so severely aggravates, and, in justice to my innocence and character, to urge the Commissioners to an early communication of their advice.

To save your Majesty and the Commissioners all unnecessary trouble, as well as to obviate all probability of further delay, I have directed a duplicate of this letter to be prepared, and have sent one copy of it through the Lord Chancellor, and another through Colonel Taylor to your Majesty.

I am, Sire,

With every sentiment of gratitude and loyalty,

Your Majesty's most affectionate and dutiful  
Daughter-in-law, Servant, and Subject.

C. P.

*Montague House, December 8th, 1806.*

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THE Lord Chancellor has the honour to present his most humble duty to the Princess of Wales, and to transmit to her Royal Highness, the accompanying message from the King; which her Royal Highness will observe, he has his Majesty's commands to communicate to her Royal Highness.

The Lord Chancellor would have done himself the honour to have waited personally upon her Royal Highness, and have delivered it himself; but he considered the sending it sealed as more respectful and acceptable to her Royal Highness. The Lord Chan-

cellor received the original paper from the King yesterday, and made the copy now sent in his own hand.

January 28th, 1807.

*To her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.*

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THE King, having referred to his confidential servants the proceedings and papers relative to the written declarations, which had been before his Majesty, respecting the conduct of the Princess of Wales, has been apprised by them, that after the fullest consideration of the examinations taken on that subject, and of the observations and affidavits brought forward by the Princess of Wales's legal advisers, they agree in the opinions, submitted to his Majesty in the original report of the four Lords, by whom his Majesty directed that the matter should, in the first instance, be enquired into; and that, in the present stage of the business, upon a mature and deliberate view of this most important subject in all its parts and bearings, it is their opinion, that the facts of this case do not warrant their advising that any further step should be taken in the business by his Majesty's Government, or any other proceedings instituted upon it, except such only as his Majesty's law servants may, on reference to them, think fit to recommend for the prosecution of Lady Douglas, on those parts of her depositions which may appear to them to be justly liable thereto.

In this situation his Majesty is advised, that it is no longer necessary for him to decline receiving the Princess into his Royal Presence.

The King sees, with great satisfaction, the agreement of his confidential servants, in the decided opi-

nion expressed by the four Lords, upon the falsehood of the accusations of pregnancy and delivery brought forward against the Princess by Lady Douglas.

On the other matters produced in the course of the inquiry, the King is advised that none of the facts or allegations stated in preliminary examinations, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, can be considered as legally or conclusively established. But in those examinations, and even in the answer drawn in the name of the Princess, by her legal advisers, there have appeared circumstances of conduct on the part of the Princess, which his Majesty never could regard but with serious concern. The elevated rank which the Princess hold in this country, and the relation in which she stands to his Majesty and the Royal Family, must always deeply involve both the interests of the State, and the personal feelings of his Majesty, in the propriety and correctness of her conduct. And his Majesty cannot, therefore, forbear to express, in the conclusion of the business, his desire and expectation, that such a conduct may, in future be observed by the Princess, as may fully justify those marks of paternal regard and affection, which the King always wishes to shew to every part of his Royal Family.

His Majesty has directed that this message should be transmitted to the Princess of Wales, by his Lord Chancellor, and that copies of the proceedings, which had taken place on the subject, should also be communicated to his dearly beloved Son the Prince of Wales.

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*Montague House, January 29th, 1807.*

SIRE,—I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of the paper, which, by your Majesty's direction, was yesterday transmitted to me, by the Lord Chancellor, and to express the unfeigned happiness, which I have derived from one part of it. I mean that, which informs

me that your Majesty's confidential servants have, at length, thought proper to communicate to your Majesty, their advice, "that it is no longer necessary for "your Majesty to decline receiving me into your "Royal presence." And I, therefore, humbly hope, that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to receive, with favour, the communication of my intention to avail myself, with your Majesty's permission, of that advice, for the purpose of waiting upon your Majesty on Monday next, if that day should not be inconvenient; when I hope again to have the happiness of throwing myself, in filial duty and affection, at your Majesty's feet.

Your Majesty will easily conceive, that I reluctantly name so distant a day as Monday, but I do not feel myself sufficiently recovered from the measles, to venture upon so long a drive at an earlier day. Feeling, however, very anxious, to receive again as soon as possible, that blessing, of which I have been so long deprived, if that day should happen to be, in any degree, inconvenient, I humbly entreat, and implore, your Majesty's most gracious and paternal goodness, to name some other day, as early as possible, for that purpose.

I am, &c.

(Signed)

C. P.

*To the King.*

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*Windsor Castle, January 29th, 1807.*

THE King has this moment received the Princess of Wales's letter, in which she intimates her intention of coming to Windsor on Monday next; and his Majesty, wishing not to put the Princess to the inconvenience of coming to this place, so immediately after her illness, hastens to acquaint her, that he shall prefer



to receive her in London, upon a day subsequent to the ensuing week, which will also better suit his Majesty, and of which he will not fail to apprize the Princess.

(Signed) GEORGE R.

*To the Princess of Wales.*

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*Windsor Castle, February 10, 1807.*

As the Princess of Wales may have been led to expect, from the King's letter to her, that he would fix an early day for seeing her, his Majesty thinks it right to acquaint her, that the Prince of Wales, upon receiving the several documents, which the King directed his Cabinet to transmit to him, made a formal communication to him of his intention to put them into the hands of his lawyers; accompanied by a request, that his Majesty would suspend any further steps in the business, until the Prince of Wales should be enabled to submit to him, the statement which he proposed to make. The King therefore considers it incumbent upon him to defer naming a day to the Princess of Wales, until the further result of the Prince's intention shall have been made known to him.

(Signed) GEORGE R.

*To the Princess of Wales.*

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*Montague House, February 12th, 1807.*

SIRE,—I received yesterday, and with inexpressible pain, your Majesty's last communication. The duty of stating, in a representation to your Majesty, the various grounds, upon which I feel the hardship of my

case, and upon which I confidently think that, upon a review of it, your Majesty will be disposed to recal your last determination, is a duty I owe to myself: and I cannot forbear, at the moment when I acknowledge your Majesty's letter, to announce to your Majesty, that I propose to execute that duty without delay.

After having suffered the punishment of banishment from your Majesty's presence, for seven months, pending an Inquiry, which your Majesty had directed, into my conduct, affecting both my life and my honour;—after that Inquiry had, at length, terminated in the advice of your Majesty's confidential and sworn servants, that there was no longer any reason for your Majesty's declining to receive me;—after your Majesty's gracious communication, which led me to rest assured that your Majesty would appoint an early day to receive me;—if after all this, by a renewed application on the part of the Prince of Wales, upon whose communication the first inquiry had been directed, I now find that that punishment, which had been inflicted, pending a seven months' Inquiry before the determination, should, contrary to the opinion of your Majesty's servants, be continued after that determination, to await the result of some new proceeding, to be suggested by the lawyers of the Prince of Wales; it is impossible that I can fail to assert to your Majesty, with the effect due to truth, that I am, in the consciousness of my innocence, and with a strong sense of my unmerited sufferings,

Your Majesty's most dutiful, and most affectionate,  
but much injured Subject, and Daughter-in-law,

(Signed)

C. P.

*To the King.*

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SIRE,—By my short letter to your Majesty of the 12th instant, in answer to your Majesty's communica-

tion of the 10th, I notified my intention of representing to your Majesty the various grounds on which I felt the hardship of my case; and, a review of which, I confidently hoped, would dispose your Majesty to recal your determination to adjourn, to an indefinite period, my reception into your royal presence; a determination, which, in addition to all the other pain which it brought along with it, affected me with the disappointment of hopes, which I had fondly cherished, with the most perfect confidence, because they rested on your Majesty's gracious assurance. Independently, however, of that communication from your Majesty, I should have felt myself bound to have troubled your Majesty with much of the contents of the present letter.

Upon the receipt of the paper, which by your Majesty's commands, was transmitted to me by the Lord Chancellor, on the 28th of last month, and which communicated to me the joyful intelligence, that your Majesty was "advised, that it was no longer necessary for you to decline receiving me into your royal presence," I conceived myself necessarily called upon to send an immediate answer to so much of it as respected that intelligence. I could not wait the time, which it would have required, to state those observations, which it was impossible for me to refrain from making, at some period, upon the other important particulars which that paper contained. Accordingly, I answered it immediately: and, as your Majesty's gracious and instant reply of last Thursday fortnight, announced to me your pleasure, that I should be received by your Majesty, on a day subsequent to the then ensuing week, I was led most confidently to assure myself, that the last week would not have passed, without my having received that satisfaction. I therefore determined to wait in patience, without further intrusion upon your Majesty, till I might have the opportunity of guarding myself from the possibility of being misunderstood, by personally explaining to

your Majesty, that whatever observations I had to make upon the paper so communicated to me, on the 28th ultimo ; and whatever complaints respecting the delay, and the many cruel circumstances which had attended the whole of the proceedings against me, and the unsatisfactory state, in which they were at length left by that last communication, they were observations and complaints which affected those only, under whose advice your Majesty had acted, and were not in any degree, intended to intimate even the most distant insinuation against your Majesty's justice, or kindness.

That paper established the opinion, which I, certainly, had ever confidently entertained, but the justness of which I had not before any document to establish, that your Majesty had, from the first, deemed this proceeding a high and important matter of state, in the consideration of which your Majesty had not felt yourself at liberty to trust to your own generous feelings, and to your own royal and gracious judgment. I never did believe, that the cruel state of anxiety, in which I had been kept, ever since the delivery of my answer, (for at least sixteen weeks) could be at all attributable to your Majesty ; it was most unlike every thing which I had ever experienced from your Majesty's condescension, feeling, and justice ; and I found, from that paper, that it was to your confidential servants I was to ascribe the length of banishment from your presence, which they, at last, advised your Majesty, it was no longer necessary should be continued. I perceive, therefore, what I always believed, that it was to them, and to them only, that I owed the protracted continuance of my sufferings, and of my disgrace ; and that your Majesty, considering the whole of this proceeding to have been instituted and conducted, under the grave responsibility of your Majesty's servants, had not thought proper to take any step, or express any opinion, upon any part of it, but such as was recommended by their advice. Influenced by these sen-

timents, and anxious to have the opportunity of conveying them, with the overflowings of a grateful heart, to your Majesty, what were my sensations of surprise, mortification, and disappointment, on the receipt of your Majesty's letter of the 10th instant, your Majesty may conceive, though I am utterly unable to express.

That letter announces to me, that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, upon receiving the several documents which your Majesty directed your Cabinet to transmit to him, made a personal communication to your Majesty of his intention to put them into the hands of his lawyers, accompanied by a request that your Majesty would suspend any further steps in the business, until the Prince of Wales should be enabled to submit to your Majesty the statement which he proposed to make; and it also announces to me that your Majesty therefore considered it incumbent on you, to defer naming a day to me, until the further result of the Prince of Wales's intention should have been made known to your Majesty.

This determination of your Majesty, on this request, made by his Royal Highness, I humbly trust your Majesty will permit me to intreat you, in your most gracious justice, to reconsider. Your Majesty, I am convinced, must have been surprised at the time, and prevailed upon by the importunity of the Prince of Wales, to think this determination necessary, or your Majesty's generosity and justice would never have adopted it. And if I can satisfy your Majesty of the unparalleled injustice and cruelty of this interposition of the Prince of Wales, at such a time, and under such circumstances, I feel the most perfect confidence that your Majesty will hasten to recal it.

I should basely be wanting to my own interest and feelings, if I did not plainly state my sense of that injustice and cruelty; and if I did not most loudly



complain of it. Your Majesty will better perceive the just grounds of my complaint, when I retrace the course of these proceedings from their commencement.

The four noble Lords, appointed by your Majesty to inquire into the charges brought against me, in their Report of the 14th of July last, after having stated that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales had laid before him, the charge which was made against me, by Lady Douglas, and the declarations in support of it, proceed in the following manner.

“In the painful situation in which His Royal Highness was placed by these communications, we learnt that His Royal Highness had adopted *the only course* which could, in our judgment, with propriety, be followed. When informations such as these, had been thus confidently alledged, and particularly detailed, and had been in some degree supported by collateral evidence, applying to other facts of the same nature, (though going to a far less extent), *one line only* could be pursued.

“Every sentiment of duty to your Majesty, and of concern for the public welfare, required that these particulars should not be withheld from your Majesty, to whom more particularly belonged the cognizance of a matter of state, so nearly touching the honour of your Majesty’s Royal Family, and, by possibility, affecting the succession of your Majesty’s Crown.

“Your Majesty has been pleased on your part to view the subject in the same light. Considering it as a matter which, on every account, demanded the most immediate investigation, your Majesty had thought fit to commit into our hands the duty of ascertaining, in the first instance, what degree of credit was due to the information, and thereby enabling your Majesty to decide what further conduct to adopt respecting them.”

His Royal Highness then, pursuing, as the four Lords say, *the only course*, which could in their judgment, with propriety, be pursued, submitted the matter to your Majesty—Your Majesty directed the inquiry by the four noble Lords.—The four Lords, in their report upon the case, justly acquitted me of all crime, and expressed (I will not wait now to say how unjustly) the credit which they gave, and the consequence they ascribed to other matters, which they did not, however, characterize as amounting to any crime.—To this report I made my answer.—That answer, together with the whole proceedings, was referred by your Majesty to the same four noble Lords, and others of your Majesty's confidential servants. They advised your Majesty, amongst much other matter, (which must be the subject of further observations) that there was no longer any reason why you should decline receiving me.

Your Majesty will necessarily conceive that I have always looked upon my banishment from your royal presence, as, in fact, a punishment, and a severe one too. I thought it sufficiently hard, that I should have been suffering that punishment during the time that this inquiry has been pending, while I was yet only under accusation, and upon the principles of the just laws of your Majesty's kingdom, entitled to be presumed to be innocent, till I was proved to be guilty. But I find this does not appear to be enough, in the opinion of the Prince of Wales. For now, when after this long inquiry into matters which required immediate investigation, I have been acquitted of every thing which could call for my banishment from your royal presence, after your Majesty's confidential servants have thus expressly advised your Majesty that they see no reason why you should any longer decline to receive me into your presence;—after your Majesty had graciously notified

to me, your determination to receive me at an early day, His Royal Highness interposes the demand of a new delay; desires your Majesty not to take any step; desires you not to act upon the advice which your own confidential servants have given you, that you need no longer decline seeing me;—not to execute your intention, and assurance, that you will receive me at an early day;—because he has laid the documents before his lawyers, and intends to prepare a further statement. And the judgment of your Majesty's confidential servants, is, as it were, appealed from by the Prince of Wales, (whom, from this time, at least, I must be permitted to consider as assuming the character of my accuser);—the justice due to me is to be suspended, while the judgment of your Majesty's sworn servants, is to be submitted to the revision of my accuser's counsel; and I, though acquitted in the opinion of your Majesty's confidential servants, of all that should induce your Majesty to decline seeing me, am to have that punishment, which had been inflicted upon me during the inquiry, continued after that acquittal, till a fresh statement is prepared, to be again submitted, for aught I know, to another inquiry, of as extended a continuance as that which has just terminated.

Can it be said that the proceedings of the four noble Lords, or of your Majesty's confidential servants, have been so lenient, and considerate towards me and my feelings, as to induce a suspicion that I have been too favourably dealt with by them? and that the advice which has been given to your Majesty, that your Majesty need no longer decline to receive me, was hastily and partially delivered? I am confident, that your Majesty must see the very reverse of this to be the case—that I have every reason to complain of the inexplicable delay which so long withheld that advice. And the whole character of the observations with which they

accompanied it, marks the reluctance with which they yielded to the necessity of giving it.

For your Majesty's confidential servants advise your Majesty, "that it is no longer necessary for you to decline receiving me into your royal presence." If this is their opinion and their advice now, why was it not their opinion and their advice four months ago, from the date of my answer? Nay, why was it not their opinion and advice from the date even of the original report itself? for not only had they been in possession of my answer for above *sixteen weeks*, which at least furnished them with all the materials on which this advice was at length given, but further, your Majesty's confidential servants are forward to state that after having read my observations, and the affidavits which were annexed to them, they agree in *the opinions* (not in any single opinion upon any particular branch of the case, but in *the opinions generally*) which were submitted to your Majesty, in the original report of the four Lords. If therefore, (notwithstanding their concurrence in *all* the opinions contained in the report) they have nevertheless given to your Majesty their advice, "that it is no longer necessary for you to decline receiving me," what could have prevented their offering that advice, even from the 14th of July, the date of the original report itself? Or what could have warranted the withholding of it, even for a single moment? Instead, therefore, of any trace being observable, of hasty, precipitate, and partial determination in my favour, it is impossible to interpret their conduct and their reasons together in any other sense than as amounting to an admission of your Majesty's confidential servants themselves, that I have, in consequence of their withholding that advice, been unnecessarily and cruelly banished from your royal presence, from that 14th. of July, to the 28th of January, including a space of above six

months; and the effect of the interposition of the Prince, is to prolong my sufferings, and my disgrace, under the same banishment, to a period perfectly indefinite.

The principle which will admit the effect of such interposition now, may be acted upon again; and the Prince may require a further prolongation upon fresh statements, and fresh charges, kept back possibly for the purpose of being, from time to time, conveniently interposed, to prevent for ever the arrival of that hour, which, displaying to the world the acknowledgment of my unmerited suffering and disgrace, may, at the same time, expose the true malicious and unjust quality of the proceedings which have been so long carried on against me.

This unreasonable, unjust, and cruel interposition of his Royal Highness, as I must ever deem it, has prevailed upon your Majesty to recal, to my prejudice, your gracious purpose of receiving me, in pursuance of the advice of your servants. Do I then flatter myself too much, when I feel assured that my *just* entreaty, founded upon the reasons which I urge, and directed to counteract only the effect of that *unjust* interposition, will induce your Majesty to return to your original determination?

Restored however, as I should feel myself, to a state of comparative security, as well as credit, by being, at length, permitted upon your Majesty's gracious reconsideration of your last determination, to have access to your Majesty; yet, under all the circumstances under which I should now receive that mark and confirmation of your Majesty's opinion of my innocence, my character would not, I fear, stand cleared in the public opinion, by the mere fact of your Majesty's reception of me. This revocation of your Majesty's gracious purpose has hung an additional cloud about the whole proceeding, and the inferences drawn in the public mind, from this circumstance, so mysterious and so per-



fectly inexplicable, upon any grounds which are open to their knowledge, has made, and will leave so deep an impression to my prejudice, as scarce any thing short of a public exposure of all that has passed, can possibly efface.

The publication of all these proceedings to the world, then, seems to me, under the present circumstances, (whatever reluctance I feel against such a measure, and however I regret the hard necessity which drives me to it) to be almost the only remaining resource for the vindication of my honour and character. The falsehood of the accusation is, by no means, all that will, by such publication, appear to the credit and clearance of my character: but the course in which the whole proceedings have been carried on, or rather delayed, by those to whom your Majesty referred the consideration of them, will shew, that, whatever measure of justice I may have ultimately received at their hands, it is not to be suspected as arising from any merciful and indulgent consideration of me, of my feelings, or of my case.

It will be seen how my feelings had been harassed, and my character and honour exposed, by the delays which have taken place in these proceedings: it will be seen, that the existence of the charge against me had avowedly been known to the public, from the 7th of June, in the last year. I say known to the public, because it was on that day that the Commissioners, acting, as I am to suppose, (for so they state in their report) under the anxious wish, that their trust should be executed with as little publicity as possible, authorized that unnecessary insult and outrage upon me, as I must always consider it, which, however intended, gave the utmost publicity and exposure to the existence of these charges—I mean, the sending two attornies, armed with their Lordships' warrant, to my house, to bring before them, at once, about one half of my household for examination. The idea of privacy, after an act so much calculated, from the extraor-

dinary nature of it, to excite the greatest attention and surprise, your Majesty must feel to have been impossible and absurd; for an attempt at secrecy, mystery, and concealment, on my part, could, under such circumstances, only have been construed into the fearfulness of guilt.

It will appear also, that, from that time, I heard nothing authentically upon the subject till the 11th of August, when I was furnished, by your Majesty's commands, with the report. The several papers, necessary to my understanding the whole of these charges, in the authentic state in which your Majesty thought it proper graciously to direct that I should have them, were not delivered to me till the beginning of September. My answer to these various charges, though the whole subject was new to those whose advice I had recourse to, long as that answer was, necessarily, obliged to be, was delivered to the Lord Chancellor, to be forwarded to your Majesty, by the 6th of October; and, from the 6th of October to the 28th of January, I was kept in total ignorance of the effect of that answer. Not only will all this delay be apparent, but it will be generally shewn to the world, how your Majesty's servants had, in this important business, treated your daughter-in-law, the Princess of Wales; and what measure of justice she, a female and a stranger in your land, has experienced at their hands.

Undoubtedly, against such a proceeding I have ever felt, and still feel, an almost invincible repugnance. Every sentiment of delicacy, with which a female mind must shrink from the act of bringing before the public such charges, however conscious of their scandal and falsity, and however clearly that scandal and falsity may be manifested by the answer to those charges; the respect still due from me, to persons employed in authority under your Majesty, however little respect I may have received from them:—My duty to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales;—my regard for all the members of your august Family; my esteem,

my duty, my gratitude to your Majesty,—my affectionate gratitude for all the paternal kindness which I have ever experienced from you ;—my anxiety, not only to avoid the risk of giving any offence or displeasure to your Majesty, but also to fly from every occasion of creating the slightest sentiment of uneasiness in the mind of your Majesty, whose happiness it would be the pride and pleasure of my life to consult, and to promote ; all these various sentiments have compelled me to submit, as long as human forbearance could endure, to all the unfavourable inferences which were, through this delay, daily increasing in the public mind. What the strength and efficacy of these motives have been, your Majesty will do me justice to feel, when you are pleased graciously to consider how long I have been contented to suffer those suspicions to exist against my innocence, which the bringing before the public of my accusation, and my defence to it, would so indisputably and immediately have dispelled.

The measure, however, of making these proceedings public, whatever mode I can adopt (considering especially the absolute impossibility of suffering any partial production of them, and the necessity that, if for any purpose any part of them should be produced, the whole must be brought before the public) remains surrounded with all the objections which I have enumerated ; and nothing could ever have prevailed upon me, or can now even prevail upon me to have recourse to it, but an imperious sense of indispensable duty to my future safety, to my present character and honour, and to the feelings, the character, and the interests of my child. I had flattered myself, when once this long proceeding should have terminated in my reception into your Majesty's presence, that that circumstance alone would have so strongly implied my innocence of all that had been brought against me, as to have been perfectly sufficient for my honour and my security ; but accompanied, as it now must be, with the knowledge of the fact, that your Majesty has been brought

to hesitate upon its propriety, and accompanied also with the very unjustifiable observations, as they appear to me, on which I shall presently proceed to remark ; and which were made by your Majesty's servants, at the time when they gave you their advice to receive me ; I feel myself in a situation, in which I deeply regret that I cannot rest in silence, without an immediate reception into your Majesty's presence ; nor, indeed, with that reception, unless it be attended by other circumstances, which may mark my satisfactory acquittal of the charges which have been brought against me.

It shall at no time be said, with truth, that I shrunk back from these infamous charges ; that I crouched before my enemies, and courted them, by my submission into moderation ! No ; I have ever boldly defied them. I have ever felt, and still feel, that, if they should think either of pursuing these accusations, or of bringing forward any other, which the wickedness of individuals may devise, to affect my honour ; (since my conscience tells me that they must be as base and groundless as those brought by Lady Douglas,) while the witnesses to the innocence of my conduct are all living, I should be able to disprove them all ; and, whoever may be my accusers, to triumph over their wickedness and malice. But should these accusations be renewed, or any other brought forward in any future time, death may (I know not how soon) remove from my innocence its best security, and deprive me of the means of my justification and my defence.

There are, therefore, other measures, which I trust your Majesty will think indispensable to be taken, for my honour, and for my security. Amongst these, I most humbly submit to your Majesty my most earnest entreaties that the proceedings, including not only my first answer and my letter of the 8th of December, but this letter also, may be directed by your Majesty to be so preserved and deposited, as that they may, all of them, securely remain permanent authentic documents and memorials of this accusation,

and of the manner in which I met it ; of my defence, as well as of the charge. That they may remain capable, at any time, of being resorted to, if the malice which produced the charge originally shall ever venture to renew it. Beyond this, I am sure your Majesty will think it but proper and just that I should be restored, in every respect, to the same situation, from whence the proceedings, under these false charges, have removed me. That, besides being graciously received again, in the bosom of your Majesty's royal family, restored to my former respect and station amongst them, your Majesty will be graciously pleased either to exert your influence with his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, that I may be restored to the use of my apartment in Carlton House, which was reserved for me, except while the apartments were undergoing repair, till the date of these proceedings ; or to assign to me some apartment in one of your royal palaces. Some apartment in or near London is indispensibly necessary, for my convenient attendance at the Drawing-room. And if I am not restored to that at Carlton House, I trust your Majesty will graciously perceive, how reasonable it is that I should request, that some apartment should be assigned to me, suited to my dignity and situation, which may mark my reception and acknowledgment, as one of your Majesty's family, and from which my attendance at the drawing-room may be easy and convenient.

If these measures are taken, I should hope that they would prove satisfactory to the public mind, and that I may feel myself fully restored in public estimation, to my former character. And should they prove so satisfactory, I shall, indeed, be delighted to think, that no further step may, even now, appear to be necessary for my peace of mind, my security, and my honour.

But your Majesty will permit me to say, that if the next week, which will make more than a month from the time of your Majesty's informing me that you would receive me, should pass without my being re-



ceived into your presence, and without having the assurance that these other requests of mine shall be complied with, I shall be under the painful necessity of considering them as refused ; in which case, I shall feel myself compelled, however reluctantly, to give the whole of these proceedings to the world : unless your Majesty can suggest other adequate means of securing my honour and my life, from the effect of the continuance or renewal of these proceedings, for the future, as well as the present ; for I entreat your Majesty to believe, that it is only in the absence of all other adequate means that I can have resort to that measure. That I consider it with deep regret ; that I regard it with serious apprehension, by no means so much on account of the effect it may have upon myself, as on account of the pain it may give your Majesty, your august family, and your loyal subjects.

As far as myself am concerned, I am aware of the observations to which this publication will expose me. But I am placed in a situation in which I have the choice only of two most unpleasant alternatives ; and I am perfectly confident that the imputations and the loss of character, which must, under these circumstances, follow from my silence, are most injurious and unavoidable ; that my silence, under such circumstances, must lead inevitably to my utter infamy and ruin. The publication, on the other hand, will expose to the world nothing, which is spoken to by any witness (whose infamy and discredit is not unanswerably exposed and established) which can, in the slightest degree, affect my character, for honour, virtue, and delicacy.

There may be circumstances disclosed, manifesting a degree of condescension and familiarity in my behaviour and conduct, which, in the opinions of many, may be considered as not sufficiently guarded, dignified and reserved. Circumstances, however, which my foreign education, and foreign habits, misled me to think, in the humble and retired situation in which it

was my fate to live, and where I had no relation, no equal, no friend to advise me, were wholly free from offence. But when they have been dragged forward, from the scenes of private life, in a grave proceeding, on a charge of High Treason and Adultery, they seem to derive a colour and character, from the nature of the charge which they are brought forward to support. And I cannot but believe that they have been used for no other purpose than to afford a cover, to screen from view the injustice of that charge ; that they have been taken advantage of, to let down my accusers more gently ; and to deprive me of that full acquittal on the report of the four Lords, which my innocence of all offence most justly entitled me to receive.

Whatever opinion, however, may be formed upon any part of my conduct, it must, in justice, be formed with reference to the situation in which I was placed : if I am judged of as Princess of Wales, with reference to the high rank of that station, I must be judged as Princess of Wales, banished from the Prince, unprotected by the support and countenance which belong to that station ; and if I am judged of in my private character, as a married woman, I must be judged of as a wife banished from her husband, and living in a widowed seclusion from him, and retirement from the world. This last consideration leads me to recur to an expression in Mrs. Lisle's examination, which describes my conduct, in the frequency and the manner of my receiving the visits of Captain Manby, though always in the presence of my ladies, as unbecoming a married woman. Upon the extreme injustice of setting up the *opinion* of one woman, as it were, in judgment upon the conduct of another ; as well as of estimating the conduct of a person in my unfortunate situation, by reference to that, which might in general be expected from a married woman, living happily with her husband, I have before generally remarked. But beyond these general remarks, in forming any estimate of my conduct, your Majesty will never forget the very pe-

cular circumstances and misfortunes of my situation. Your Majesty will remember that I had not been much above a year in this country, when I received the following letter from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

*“Windsor Castle, April 30, 1796.*

“MADAM,—As Lord Cholmondely informs me that  
 “you wish I would define, in writing,\* the terms upon  
 “which we are to live, I shall endeavour to explain  
 “myself upon that head, with as much clearness, and  
 “with as much propriety, as the nature of the subject  
 “will admit. Our inclinations are not in our power,  
 “nor should either of us be held answerable to the  
 “other, because nature has not made us suitable to  
 “each other. Tranquil and comfortable society is,  
 “however, in our power; let our intercourse, there-  
 “fore, be restricted to that, and I will distinctly sub-  
 “scribe to the condition† which you required, through  
 “Lady Cholmondely, that even in the event of any  
 “accident happening to my daughter, which I trust  
 “Providence in its mercy will avert, I shall not in-  
 “fringe the terms of the restriction, by proposing,

\* The substance of this letter had been previously conveyed in a message, through Lord Cholmondely, to her Royal Highness. But it was thought by her Royal Highness, to be infinitely too important to rest merely upon a verbal communication, and therefore she desired that his Royal Highness's pleasure upon it should be communicated to her in writing.

† Upon the receipt of the message alluded to, in the foregoing note, her Royal Highness, though she had nothing to do but to submit to the arrangement which his Royal Highness might determine upon, desired it might be understood that she should insist, that any such arrangement, if once made, should be considered as final. And that his Royal Highness should not retain the right, from time to time, at his pleasure, or under any circumstances, to alter it.

“ at any period, a connection of a more particular nature. I shall now finally close this disagreeable correspondence, trusting that, as we have completely explained ourselves to each other, the rest of our lives will be passed in uninterrupted tranquility.

“ I am,

“ Madam,

“ With great truth, very sincerely your's,

(Signed)

“ GEORGE P.”

And that to this letter I sent the following answer :

“ L'aveu de votre conversation avec Lord Choimondely, ne m'étonne, ni ne m'offense. C'étoit me confirmer ce que vous m'avez tacitement insinué depuis une année. Mais il y auroit après cela, un manque de délicatesse ou, pour mieux dire, une bassesse indigne de me plaindre des conditions, que vous vous imposez a vous même.

“ Je ne vous aurois point fait de réponse, si votre lettre n'étoit conçue de maniere à faire douter, si cet arrangement vient de vous, ou de moi ; et vous savez que vous m'annoncez l'honneur. La lettre que vous m'annoncez comme la dernière, m'oblige de communiquer au Roy, comme à mon Souverain, et à mon Pere, votre aveu et ma réponse. Vous trouverez ci incluse la copie de celle que j'écris au Roy. Je vous en prévien pour ne pas m'attirer de votre part la moindre reproche de duplicité. Comme je n'ai dans ce moment, d'autre protecteur que sa Majesté, je m'en rapporte uniquement à lui. Et si ma conduite merite son approbation, je serai, du moins en partie, consolée.

“Du reste, je conserve toute la reconnoissance possible de ce que je me trouve par votre moyen, comme Princesse de Galles, dans une situation à pouvoir me livrer sans contrainte, à une vertu chère à mon cœur, je veux dire la bienfaisance. Ce sera pour moi un devoir d’agir de plus par un autre motif savoir celui de donner l’exemple de la patience, et de la resignation dans toutes sortes d’épreuves. Rendez moi la justice de me croire, que je ne cesserai jamais de faire des vœux pour votre bonheur, et d’être votre bien dévouée.”\*

(Signed)

“CAROLINE.”

“Ce 6 de Mai, 1796.”

\*TRANSLATION.

The avowal of your conversation with Lord Cholmondely neither surprises nor offends me. It merely confirmed what you have tacitly insinuated for this twelve month. But after this, it would be a want of delicacy, or rather an unworthy meanness in me, were I to complain of those conditions which you impose upon yourself.

I should have returned no answer to your letter, if it had not been conceived in terms to make it doubtful whether this arrangement proceeds from you or from me, and you are aware that the credit of it belongs to you alone.

The letter which you announce to me as the last, obliges me to communicate to the King, as to my sovereign and my father, both your avowal and my answer. You will find enclosed the copy of my letter to the King. I apprise you of it, that I may not incur the slightest reproach of duplicity from you. As I have at this moment no protector but his Majesty, I refer myself solely to him upon this subject, and if my conduct meets his approbation, I shall be in some degree at least consoled. I retain every sentiment of gratitude for the situation in which I find myself, as Princess of Wales, enabled by your means to indulge in the free exercise of a virtue dear to my heart, I mean charity.

It will be my duty likewise to act upon another motive, that of giving an example of patience and resignation under every trial.

Do me the justice to believe that I shall never cease to pray for your happiness, and to be,

Your much devoted

CAROLINE.

6 of May, 1796.



The date of His Royal Highness's letter is the 30th of April, 1796. The date of our marriage, your Majesty will recollect, is the 8th day of April, in the year 1795, and that of the birth of our only child the 7th of January, 1796.

On the letter of his Royal Highness I offer no comment. I only entreat your Majesty not to understand me to introduce it, as affording any supposed justification or excuse, for the least departure from the strictest line of virtue, or the slightest deviation from the most refined delicacy. The crime, which has been insinuated against me, would be equally criminal and detestable; the indelicacy imputed to me would be equally odious and abominable, whatever renunciation of conjugal authority and affection, the above letter of his Royal Highness might in any construction of it be supposed to have conveyed. Such crimes, and faults, derive not their guilt from the consideration of the conjugal virtues of the individual, who may be the most injured by them, however much such virtues may aggravate their enormity. No such letter, therefore, in any construction of it, no renunciation of conjugal affection or duties, could ever palliate them. But whether conduct free from all crime, free from all indelicacy, (which I maintain to be the character of the conduct to which Mrs. Lisle's observations apply,) yet possibly not so measured, as a cautious wife, careful to avoid the slightest appearance of not preferring her husband to all the world, might be studious to observe; whether conduct of such description, and possibly, in such sense, not becoming a married woman, could be justly deemed, in my situation, an offence in me, I must leave to your Majesty to determine.

In making that determination, however, it will not escape your Majesty to consider, that the conduct which does or does not become a married woman materially depends upon what is or is not known by her to be agreeable to her husband. His pleasure and hap-

piness ought unquestionably to be her law ; and his approbation the most favourite object of her pursuit. Different characters of men, require different modes of conduct in their wives ; but when a wife can no longer be capable of perceiving from time to time, what is agreeable or offensive to her husband, when her conduct can no longer contribute to his happiness, no longer hope to be rewarded by his approbation, surely to examine that conduct by the standard of what ought in general to be the conduct of a married woman, is altogether unreasonable and unjust.

What then is my case ? Your Majesty will do me the justice to remark, that, in the above letter of the Prince of Wales, there is not the most distant surmise, that crime, that vice, that indelicacy of any description, gave occasion to his determination ; and all the tales of infamy and discredit, which the inventive malice of my enemies, has brought forward on these charges, have their date, years, and years, after the period to which I am now alluding. What then, let me repeat the question, is my case ? After the receipt of the above letter, and in about two years from my arrival in this country, I had the misfortune entirely to lose the support, the countenance, the protection of my husband—I was banished, as it were, into a sort of humble retirement, at a distance from him, and almost estranged from the whole of the royal family. I had no means of having recourse, either for society or advice, to those, from whom my inexperience could have best received the advantages of the one, and with whom I could, most becomingly, have enjoyed the comforts of the other ; and if in this retired, unassisted, unprotected state, without the check of a husband's authority, without the benefit of his advice, without the comfort and support of the society of his family, a stranger to the habits and fashions of this country, I should, in any instance, under the influence of foreign habits, and foreign education, have observed a con-

duct, in any degree deviating from the reserve and severity of British manners, and partaking of a condescension and familiarity which that reserve and severity would, perhaps, deem beneath the dignity of my exalted rank, I feel confident, (since such deviation will be seen to have been ever consistent with perfect innocence), that not only your Majesty's candour and indulgence, but the candour and indulgence, which notwithstanding the reserve and severity of British manners, always belong to the British public, will never visit it with severity or censure.

It remains for me now to make some remarks upon the further contents of the paper, which was transmitted to me by the Lord Chancellor on the 28th ult. And I cannot in passing, omit to remark, that that paper has neither title, date, signature, nor attestation; and unless the Lord Chancellor had accompanied it with a note, stating that it was copied in his own hand from the original, which his Lordship had received from your Majesty, I should have been at a loss to have perceived any single mark of authenticity belonging to it, and as it is, I am wholly unable to discover what is the true character which does belong to it. It contains, indeed, the advice which your Majesty's servants have offered to your Majesty, and the message which, according to that advice, your Majesty directed to be delivered to me.

Considering it, therefore, wholly as their act, your Majesty will excuse and pardon me, if, deeply injured as I feel myself to have been by them; I express myself with freedom upon their conduct. I may speak perhaps with warmth, because I am provoked by a sense of gross injustice: I shall speak certainly with firmness and with courage, because I am emboldened by a sense of conscious innocence.

Your Majesty's confidential servants say, "they agree in the opinions of the four Lords," and they say this, "after the fullest consideration of my ob-

“servations, and of the affidavits which were annexed “to them.” Some of these opinions, your Majesty will recollect, are, that “William Cole, Fanny Lloyd, “Robert Bidgood, and Mrs Lisle are witnesses who “cannot,” in the judgment of the four Lords, “be suspected of any unfavourable bias;” and “whose veracity in this respect they had seen no ground to question;” and “that the circumstances to which they “speak, particularly as relating to Captain Manby, “must be credited until they are decisively contradicted.” Am I then to understand your Majesty’s confidential servants to mean, that they agree with the four Noble Lords in these opinions? Am I to understand, after having read with the fullest consideration, the observations which I have offered to your Majesty; after having seen William Cole there proved to have submitted himself, five times at least, to private, unauthorised, voluntary examination by Sir John Douglas’s Solicitor, for the express purpose of confirming the statement of Lady Douglas, (of that Lady Douglas, whose statement and deposition they are convinced to be so malicious and false, that they propose to institute such prosecution against her, as your Majesty’s Law Officers may advise, upon a reference, now at length, after six months from the detection of that malice and falsehood, intended to be made)—after having seen this William Cole, submitting to such repeated voluntary examinations for such a purpose, and although he was all that time a servant on my establishment, and eating my bread, yet never once communicating to me, that such examinations were going on—am I to understand, that your Majesty’s confidential servants agree with the four Lords in thinking, that he cannot, under such circumstances, *be suspected of unfavourable bias*? That after having had pointed out to them the direct, flat contradiction between the same William Cole and Fanny Lloyd, they nevertheless agree to think them both (though in direct con-



tradiction to each other, *yet both*) witnesses, *whose veracity they see no ground to question?* After having seen Fanny Lloyd directly and positively contradicted, in an assertion, most injurious to my honour, by Mr. Mills and Mr. Edmeades, do they agree in opinion with the four Noble Lords, that they see *no ground to question their veracity?*—After having read the observations on Mr. Bidgood's evidence; after having seen, that he had the hardihood to swear, that he believed Captain Manby slept in my house, at Southend, and to insinuate that he slept in my bed-room; after having seen that he founded himself on this most false fact, and most foul and wicked insinuation, upon the circumstance of observing a bason and some towels where he thought they ought not to be placed; after having seen that this fact and this insinuation were disproved before the four Noble Lords themselves, by two maid-servants, who, at that time, lived with me at Southend, and whose duties about my person and my apartments, must have made them acquainted with this fact, as asserted, or as insinuated, if it had happened; after having observed too, in confirmation of their testimony, that one of them mentioned the name of another female servant (who was not examined), who had, from her situation, equal means of knowledge with themselves—I ask whether, after all this decisive weight of contradiction to Robert Bidgood's testimony, I am to understand your Majesty's confidential servants to agree with the four Noble Lords in thinking, that Mr. Bidgood is a witness, who *cannot be suspected* of unfavourable bias, and that there is *no ground to question his veracity?* If, Sir, I were to go through all the remarks of this description, which occur to me to make, I should be obliged to repeat nearly all my former observations, and to make this letter as long as my original answer: but to that answer I confidently appeal, and I will venture to challenge your Majesty's



confidential servants to find a single impartial, and honourable man, unconnected in feeling and interest with the parties, and unconnected in Council, with those who have already pledged themselves to an opinion upon this subject, who will lay his hand upon his heart, and say that these three witnesses, on whom that Report so mainly relies, are not to be suspected of the grossest partiality, and that their veracity is not most fundamentally impeached.

Was it then noble, was it generous, was it manly, was it just, in your Majesty's confidential servants, instead of fairly admitting the injustice, which had been, inadvertently, and unintentionally, no doubt, done to me, by the four Noble Lords in their report, upon the evidence of these witnesses, to state to your Majesty, that they agree with these Noble Lords in their opinion, though they cannot, it seems, go the length of agreeing any longer to withhold the advice, which restores me to your Majesty's presence? And with respect to the particulars to my prejudice, remarked upon in the report as those "which justly "deserve the most serious consideration, and which "must be credited till decisively contradicted," instead of fairly avowing, either that there was originally no pretence for such a remark, or that, if there had been originally, yet that my answer had given that decisive contradiction which was sufficient to discredit them; instead, I say, of acting this just, honest, and open, part, to take no notice whatsoever of those contradictions, and content themselves with saying, that "none of the facts or allegations stated in preliminary examinations, carried on in the absence of "the parties interested, could be considered as *legally* "or *conclusively* established?"

They agree in the opinion that the facts or allegations, though stated in preliminary examination, carried on in the absence of the parties interested, *must be credited till decisively contradicted, and deserve the*

*most serious consideration.* They read, with the fullest consideration, the contradiction which I have tendered to them; they must have known, that no other sort of contradiction could, by possibility, from the nature of things, have been offered upon such subjects: They do not question the truth, they do not point out the insufficiency of the contradiction, but, in loose, general, indefinite, terms, referring to my answer, consisting, as it does, of above two hundred written pages, and coupling it with those examinations (which they admit establish nothing against an absent party) they advise your Majesty that "there appear many circumstances of conduct, which could not be regarded by your Majesty without serious concern;" and that, as to all the other facts and allegations, except those relative to my pregnancy and delivery, they are not to be considered as "*legally and conclusively established,*" because spoken to in preliminary examinations, not carried on in the presence of the parties concerned. They do not, indeed, expressly assert, that my contradiction was not decisive or satisfactory; they do not expressly state, that they think the facts and allegations want nothing towards their legal and conclusive establishment, but a re-examination in the presence of the parties interested, but they go far to imply such opinions. That those opinions are utterly untenable, against the observations I have made, upon the credit and character of those witnesses, I shall ever most confidently maintain; but that those observations leave their credit wholly unaffected, and did not deserve the least notice from your Majesty's servants, it is impossible that any honourable man can assert, or any fair and unprejudiced mind believe.

I now proceed, Sire, to observe, very shortly, upon the advice further given to your Majesty as contained in the remaining part of the paper; which has represented that, both in the examinations, and even in my answer there have appeared many circumstances of

conduct which could not be regarded but with serious concern, and which have suggested the expression of a desire and expectation, that such a conduct may in future be observed by me, as may fully justify these marks of paternal regard and affection, which your Majesty wishes to shew to all your royal family.

And here, Sire, your Majesty will graciously permit me to notice the hardship of the advice, which has suggested to your Majesty, to convey to me this reproof. I complain not so much for what it does, as for what it does not contain; I mean the absence of all particular mention of what it is, that is the object of their blame. The circumstances of conduct which appear in these examinations, and in my answer to which they allude as those which may be supposed to justify the advice, which has led to this reproof, since your Majesty's servants have not particularly mentioned them, I cannot be certain that I know. But I will venture confidently to repeat the assertion, which I have already made, that there are no circumstances of conduct spoken to by any witness, (whose infamy and discredit are not unanswerably exposed, and established), nor any where apparent in my answer which have the remotest approach, either to crime or to indelicacy.

For my future conduct, Sire, impressed with every sense of gratitude for all former kindness, I shall be bound unquestionably, by sentiment as well as duty, to study your Majesty's pleasure. Any advice which your Majesty may wish to give to me in respect of any particulars in my conduct, I shall be bound, and be anxious to obey as my law. But I must trust that your Majesty will point out to me the particulars, which may happen to displease you, and which you may wish to have altered. I shall be as happy, in thus feeling myself safe from blame under the benefit of your Majesty's advice, as I am now in finding myself secured from danger, under the protection of your justice.



Your Majesty will permit me to add one word more.

Your Majesty has seen what detriment my character has, for a time, sustained, by the false and malicious statement of Lady Douglas, and by the depositions of the witnesses who were examined in support of her statement. Your Majesty has seen how many enemies I have, and how little their malice has been restrained by any regard to truth in the pursuit of my ruin. Few, as it may be hoped, may be the instances of such determined and unprovoked malignity, yet I cannot flatter myself, that the world does not produce other persons, who may be swayed by similar motives to similar wickedness. Whether the statement to be prepared by the Prince of Wales, is to be confined to the old charges, or is intended to bring forward new circumstances, I cannot tell; but if any fresh attempts of the same nature shall be made by my accusers, instructed as they will have been, by their miscarriage in this instance, I can hardly hope that they will not renew their charge, with an improved artifice, more skilfully directed, and with a malice, inflamed rather than abated by their previous disappointment. I therefore can only appeal to your Majesty's justice, in which I confidently trust, that whether these charges are to be renewed against me either on the old or on fresh evidence; or whether new accusations, as well as new witnesses, are to be brought forward, your Majesty, after the experience of these proceedings, will not suffer your royal mind to be prejudiced by *ex parte*, secret examinations, nor my character to be whispered away by insinuations, or suggestions which I have no op-

portunity of meeting. If any charge, which the law will recognize, should be brought against me in an open and legal manner, I should have no right to complain, nor any apprehension to meet it. But till I may have a full opportunity of so meeting it, I trust your Majesty will not suffer it to excite even a suspicion to my prejudice. I must claim the benefit of the presumption of innocence till I am proved to be guilty; for, without that presumption, against the effects of secret insinuation and *ex parte* examinations, the purest innocence can make no defence, and can have no security.

Surrounded, as it is now proved, that I have been, for years, by domestic spies, your Majesty must, I trust, feel convinced, that if I had been guilty there could not have been wanting evidence to have proved my guilt. And that these spies have been obliged to have resort to their own invention for the support of the charge, is the strongest demonstration that the truth, undisguised, and correctly represented, could furnish them with no handle against me. And when I consider the nature and malignity of that conspiracy, which, I feel confident I have completely detected and exposed, I cannot but think of that detection, with the liveliest gratitude, as the special blessing of Providence, who, by confounding the machinations of my enemies, has enabled me to find, in the very excess and extravagance of their malice, in the very weapons which they fabricated and sharpened for my destruction, the sufficient guard to my innocence, and the effectual means of my justification and defence.



I trust, therefore, Sire, that I may now close this long letter, in confidence that many days will not elapse before I shall receive from your Majesty, that assurance that my just requests may be so completely granted, as may render it possible for me (which nothing else can) to avoid the painful disclosure to the world of all the circumstances of that injustice, and of those unmerited sufferings, which these proceedings, in the manner in which they have been conducted, have brought upon me.

I remain,

Sire,

With every sentiment of gratitude,

Your Majesty's most dutiful,

most submissive Daughter-in-law,

Subject and Servant,

(Signed) C. P.

*Montague House, February 16, 1807.*

As these observations apply not only to the official communication through the Lord Chancellor, of the 28th ult., but also to the private letter of your Majesty, of the 12th instant, I have thought it most respectful to your Majesty, and your Majesty's servants, to send this letter in duplicate, one part through Colonel Taylor, and the other through the Lord Chancellor to your Majesty.

(Signed) C. P.

*To the King.*

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SIRE,—When I last troubled your Majesty upon my unfortunate business, I had raised my mind to hope, that I should have the happiness of hearing from your Majesty, and receiving your gracious commands to pay my duty in your Royal presence, before the expiration of the last week. And when that hope was disappointed, (eagerly clinging to any idea which offered me a prospect of being saved from the necessity of having recourse, for the vindication of my character, to the publication of the proceedings upon the inquiry into my conduct), I thought it just possible that the reason for my not having received your Majesty's commands to that effect, might have been occasioned by the circumstance of your Majesty's staying at Windsor through the whole of the week; I, therefore, determined to wait a few days longer, before I took a step, which, when once taken, could not be recalled. Having, however, now assured myself, that your Majesty was in town yesterday—as I have received no command to wait upon your Majesty, and no intimation of your pleasure—I am reduced to the necessity of abandoning all hope, that your Majesty will comply with my humble, my earnest, and anxious requests.

Your Majesty, therefore, will not be surprised to find, that the publication of the proceedings alluded to, will not be withheld beyond Monday next.

As to any consequences which may arise from such publication, unpleasant or hurtful to my own feelings and interests, I may, perhaps, be properly responsible; and, in any event, have no one to complain of but myself, and those with whose advice I have acted; and whatever those consequences may be, I am fully and unalterably convinced, that they must be incalculably less than those, which I should be exposed to from my

silence. But as to any other consequences, unpleasant or hurtful to the feelings and interests of others, or of the public, my conscience will certainly acquit me of them;—I am confident that I have not acted impatiently, or precipitately. To avoid coming to this painful extremity, I have taken every step in my power, except that which would be abandoning my character to utter infamy, and my station and life to no uncertain danger, and possibly to no very distant destruction.

With every prayer for the lengthened continuance of your Majesty's health and happiness, for every possible blessing which a gracious God can bestow upon the beloved monarch of a loyal people, and for the continued prosperity of your dominions, under your Majesty's propitious reign,

I remain,

Your Majesty's

Most dutiful, loyal and affectionate,

but most unhappy, and most injured,

Daughter-in-law, Subject, and Servant,

C. P.

*Montague House, March 5, 1807.*

*To the King.*

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## STATEMENT OF LADY DOUGLAS.



HIS Royal Highness the Prince of Wales having judged proper to order me to detail to him, as Heir Apparent, the whole circumstances of my acquaintance with her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, from the day I first spoke with her to the present time, I felt it my duty, as a subject, to comply without hesitation with his Royal Highness's commands: and I did so, because I conceived, even putting aside the rights of an Heir Apparent, his Royal Highness was justified in informing himself as to the actions of his wife, who, from all the information he had collected, seemed so likely to disturb the tranquillity of the country; and it appeared to me that, in so doing, his Royal Highness evinced his earnest regard for the real interest of the country, in endeavouring to prevent such a person from, perhaps, one day placing a spurious Heir upon the English Throne, and which his Royal Highness has indeed a right to fear, and communicate to the Sovereign, as the Princess of Wales told me, "If she were discovered in bringing her son into the world, she would give the Prince of Wales the credit of it, for that she had slept two nights in the year she was pregnant at Carlton House."

As an Englishwoman, educated in the highest respectful attachment to the Royal Family; as the daughter of an English Officer, who has all his life received the most gracious marks of approbation and protection from his Majesty, and from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; and as the wife of an Officer, whom our beloved King has honoured with a public mark of his approbation, and who is bound to the Royal Family by ties of respectful regard and attachment, which nothing can ever break, I feel it my duty to make known the Princess of Wales's sen-

timents and conduct, now, and whensoever I may be called upon.

For the information, therefore, of his Majesty and of the Heir Apparent, and by the desire of the Heir Apparent, I beg leave to state, that Sir John took a house upon Blackheath in the year 1801, because the air was better for him, after his Egyptian services, than London, and it was somewhat nearer Chatham, where his military duties occasionally called him. I had a daughter, born upon the 17th of February, and we took up our residence there in April, living very happily and quietly; but in the month of November, when the ground was covered with snow, as I was sitting in my parlour, which commanded a view of the Heath, I saw, to my surprize, the Princess of Wales, elegantly dressed in a lilac satin pelisse, primrose-coloured half boots, and a small lilac satin travelling cap, faced with sable, and a Lady, pacing up and down before the house, and sometimes stopping, as if desirous of opening the gate in the iron-railing to come in. At first I had no conception her Royal Highness really wished to come in, but must have mistaken the house for another person's, for I had never been made known to her, and I did not know that she knew where I lived. I stood at the window looking at her, and, as she looked very much, from respect, courtesied (as I understood was customary); to my astonishment she returned my courtesy by a familiar nod, and stopped. Old Lady Stuart, a West Indian Lady, who lived in my immediate neighbourhood, and who was in the habit of coming in to see me, was in the room, and said, "You should go out, her Royal Highness wants to come in out of the snow." Upon this I went out, and she came immediately to me and said, "I believe you are Lady Douglas, and you have a very beautiful child; I should like to see it." I answered that I was Lady Douglas. Her Royal Highness then said, "I should like of all things to see your little child." I answered, that I was very sorry I could not have



the honour of presenting my little girl to her, as I and my family were spending the cold weather in town, and I was only come to pass an hour or two upon the Heath. I held open the gate, and the Princess of Wales and her Lady, Miss Heyman (I believe,) walked in and sat down, and stayed above an hour, laughing very much at Lady Stuart, who, being a singular character, talked all kind of nonsense. After her Royal Highness had amused herself as long as she pleased, she inquired where Sir John Douglas and Sir Sidney Smith were; and went away, having shook hands with me, and expressed her pleasure at having found me out and made herself known: I concluded that Sir Sidney Smith had acquainted her Royal Highness that we resided upon the Heath, as he was just arrived in England, and having been in long habits of friendship with Sir John, was often with us, and told us how kind he should think it if we could let him come to and fro without ceremony, and let him have an airy room appropriated to himself, as he was always ill in town, and from being asthmatic, suffered extremely when the weather was foggy in town. Sir John gave him that hospitable reception he was in the habit of doing by all his old friends, (for I understand they have been known to each other more than twenty years,) and he introduced him to me as a person, to whom he wished my friendly attention to be paid; as I had never seen Sir Sidney Smith in my life, until this period, when he became, as it were, a part of the family. When I returned to town, I told Sir John Douglas the circumstance of the Princess having visited me, and a few days after this, we received a note from Mrs. Lisle (who was in waiting) commanding us to dine at Montague House. We went, and there were several persons at the dinner. I remember Lord and Lady Dartmouth, and I think Mr. and Mrs. Arbuthnot, &c. &c. From this time the Princess made me frequent visits, always attended by her Ladies, or Mrs. Sander (her maid). When Sander came, she was sent back, or put in another room;

but when any of her Ladies were with her, we always sat together. Her Royal Highness was never attended by any livery servants, but she always walked about Blackheath and the neighbourhood only with her female attendants. In a short time, the Princess became so extravagantly fond of me, that, however flattering it might be, it certainly was very troublesome. Leaving her attendants below, she would push past my servant, and run up stairs into my bed-chamber, kiss me, take me in her arms, and tell me I was beautiful, saying she had never loved any woman so much ; that she would regulate my dress, for she delighted in setting off a pretty woman ; and such high-flown compliments that women are never used to pay to each other. I used to beg her Royal Highness not to feed my self-love, as we had all enough of that, without encouraging one another. She would then stop me, and enumerate all my good points I had, saying she was determined to teach me to set them off. She would exclaim, Oh ! believe me, you are quite beautiful, different from almost any English woman ; your arms are fine beyond imagination, your bust is very good, and your eyes, Oh, I never saw such eyes—all other women who have dark eyes look fierce, but yours (my dear Lady Douglas) are nothing but softness and sweetness, and yet quite dark. In this manner she went on perpetually, even before strangers. I remember when I was one morning at her house, with her Royal Highness, Mrs. Harcourt, and her ladies, the Duke of Kent came to take leave before his Royal Highness went to Gibraltar. When we were sitting at table, the Princess introduced me, and said—Your Royal Highness must look at her eyes ; but now she has disguised herself in a large hat, you cannot see how handsome she is. The Duke of Kent was very polite and obliging, for he continued to talk with Mrs. Harcourt, and took little notice, for which I felt much obliged ; but she persisted, and said—take off your hat. I did not do it, and she took it off ; but his Royal Highness, I suppose, conceiving it could not

be very pleasant to me, took little notice, and talked of something else.

Whenever the Princess visited us, either Sir John, or I, returned home with her and her party quite to the door; and if he were out, I went with her Royal Highness, and took my footman; for we soon saw that her Royal Highness was a very singular and a very indiscreet woman, and we resolved to be always very careful and guarded with her; and when she visited us, if any visitor whosoever came to our house, they were put into another room, and they could not see the Princess, or be in her society, unless she positively desired it. However, her Royal Highness forgot her high station (and she was also forgetting it); we trust, and hope, and feel satisfied, we never, for a moment, lost sight of her being the wife of the Heir Apparent.

We passed our time as her Royal Highness chose when together, and the usual amusements were—playing French Proverbs, in which the Princess always cast the parts, and played; Musical Magic; forfeits of all kinds; sometimes dancing; and in this manner, either the Princess and her Ladies with me, or we at Montague House, we passed our time. Twice, after spending the morning with me, she remained without giving me any previous notice, and would dine with us, and thus ended the year 1801.

In the month of February, before Miss Garth was to come into waiting in March 1802, the Princess, in one of her morning visits, after she had sent Sander home, said, “My dear Lady Douglas, I am come to see you this morning to ask a great favour of you, which I hope you will grant me.” I told her, “I was sure she could not make any unworthy request, and that I would only say, I should have great pleasure in doing any thing to oblige her, but I was really at a loss to guess how I possibly could have

“ it in my power to grant her a favour.” Her Royal Highness replied, “ what I have to ask is for you to come and spend a fortnight with me ; you shall not be separated from Sir John, for he may be with you whenever he pleases, and bring your little girl and maid. I mean you to come to the Round Tower, where there are a complete suite of rooms for a Lady and her servant. When Mrs. Lisle was in waiting, and hurt her foot, she resided there ; Miss Heyman always was there, and Lord and Lady Lavington have slept there. When I have any married people visiting me, it is better than their being in the house, and we are only separated by a small garden. I dislike Miss Garth, and she hates to be with me, more than what her duty demands, and I don’t wish to trouble any of my ladies out of their turn. I shall require you, as lady in waiting, to attend me in my walks ; and when I drive out ; write my notes and letters for me, and be in the way to speak to any one who may come on business. I seldom appear until about three o’clock, and you may go home before I want you after breakfast every day.” I replied, that being a married woman, I could not promise for myself, and, as Sir John was much out of health, I should not like to leave him ; but he was always so kind and good-natured to me, that I dared to venture to say he would allow me if he could ; and when he came home I asked him if I should go. Sir John agreed to the Princess’s desire, and I took the waiting. During my stay I attended her Royal Highness to the play and the opera I think twice, and also to dine at Lord Dartmouth’s and Mr. Windham’s. At Mr. Windham’s, in the evening, while one of the ladies was at the harpsichord, the Princess complained of being very warm, and called out for ale, which, by a mistake in the language, she always calls *oil*. Mrs. Windham was perfectly at a loss to comprehend her wishes, and came to me for an explanation. I told her I believed she meant ale. Mrs. Windham said she had none in the house, was it any particular kind she required ? I told her I believed not ; that when the Princess

thought proper to visit me, she always wanted it, and I gave her what I had, or could procure for her upon Blackheath. We could not always suddenly obtain what was wished. Mrs. Windham then proposed to have some sent for, and did so; it was brought, and the Princess drank it all.—When at Lord Dartmouth's, his Lordship asked me if I was the only lady in waiting, being, I supposed, surprised at my appearing in that situation, when, to his knowledge, I had not known the Princess more than four months. I answered, I was at Montague House, acting as lady in waiting, until Miss Garth was well, as the Princess told me she was ill. Lord Dartmouth looked surprised and said he had not heard of Miss Garth being ill, and was surprised. I was struck with Lord Dartmouth's seeming doubt of Miss Garth's illness, and after, thought upon it. From the dinner we went at an early hour to the opera, and then returned to Blackheath. During this visit I was greatly surprised at the whole stile of the Princess of Wales's conversation, which was constantly very loose, and such as I had not been accustomed to hear; such as, in many instances, I have not been able to repeat, even to Sir John, and such as made me hope I should cease to know her, before my daughter might be old enough to be corrupted by her. I confess I went home hoping and believing she was at times a good deal disordered in her senses, or she never would have gone on as she did. When she came to sup with me in the Tower (which she often did) she would arrive in a long red cloak, a silk handkerchief tied over her head under her chin, and a pair of slippers down at the heels.

After supper I attended her to the house. I found her a person without education or talents, without any desire of improving herself. Amongst other things which surprised me while there, was a plan she told me she had in hand; that Prince William of Gloucester liked me, and that she had written to him, to tell him that a fair lady was in her Tower, that



she left it to his own heart to find out who it was, but if he was the gallant Prince she thought him, he would fly and see. I was amazed at such a contrivance, and said, Good, God! how could your Royal Highness do so? I really like Sir John better than any body, and am quite satisfied and happy. I waited nine years for him, and would never marry any other person. The Princess ridiculed this, and said Nonsense, nonsense, my dear friend. In consequence of the Princess's note, Prince William actually rode the next morning to the Tower, but by good fortune Sir Sidney Smith had previously called and been admitted, and as we were walking by the house, her Royal Highness saw the Prince coming, went immediately out of sight, and ran and told a servant to say she and I were gone a walking, and we immediately walked away to Charlton, having first, unperceived, seen Prince William ride back again, (of course not very well pleased, and possibly believing I had a hand in his ridiculous adventure). It seems he was angry; for soon after his Royal Highness, the late Duke of Gloucester, came and desired to see the Princess, and told her, that his son William had represented to him how very free she permitted Sir Sidney Smith to be, and how constantly he was visiting at Montague House; that it rested with herself to keep her acquaintance at a proper distance, and as Sir Sidney was a lively, thoughtless man, and had not been accustomed to the society of ladies of her rank, he might forget himself, and she would then have herself to blame—that as a father, and an earnest friend, he came to her, very sorry indeed to trouble her, but he conjured and begged her to recollect how very peculiar her situation was, and how doubly requisite it was she should be more cautious than other people. To end this lecture (as she called it) she rang the bell, and desired Mrs.\* Cole to fetch me. I went into the drawing-room, where the Duke and Her Royal Highness were sitting, and she intro-

\* Query, Mr. Cole.

duced me as an old friend of Prince William's. His Royal Highness got up, and looked at me very much, and then said, "The Princess has been talking a great deal about you, and tells me you have *made* one of the most delightful children in the world, and indeed it might well be so, when the mother was so handsome and good-natured-looking." By this time I was so used to these fine speeches, either from the Princess, or from her through others, that I was ready to laugh, and I only said, "We did not talk about much beauty, but my little girl was in good health, and Her Royal Highness was very obliging." As soon as His Royal Highness was gone, the Princess sent again for me, told me every word he had said, and said "He is a good man, and therefore I took it as it was meant; but if Prince William had ventured to talk to me himself, I would certainly have boxed his ears: however, as he is so inquisitive, and watches me, I will cheat him, and throw the dust in his eyes, and make him believe Sir Sidney comes here to see you, and that you and he are the greatest possible friends. I delight of all things in cheating those clever people." Her speech and her intentions made me serious, and my mind was forcibly struck with the great danger there would follow to myself, if she were this kind of person. I begged of her not to think of doing such a thing, saying, Your Royal Highness knows it is not so, and although I would do much to oblige you, yet, when my own character is at stake, I must stop. Good God, Ma'am, His Royal Highness would naturally repeat it, and what should I do? Reputation will not bear being sported with. The Princess took me by the hand, and said, Certainly, my dear Lady Douglas, I know very well it is not so, and therefore it does not signify. I am sure it is not so, *that* I am sure of. I have much too good an opinion of you, and too good an opinion of Sir Sidney Smith. It would be very bad in him, after Sir John's hospitality to him. I know him incapable of such a thing, for I have known him for a long time; but still I wonder too in the same house

it does not happen. By this time I was rather vexed, and said, Your Royal Highness and I think quite differently—Sir Sidney Smith comes and goes as he pleases to his room in our house. I really see little of him. He seems a very good-humoured, pleasant man, and I always think one may be upon very friendly terms with men who are friends of one's husbands, without being their humble servants. The Princess argued upon this for an hour, said, This is Miss Garth's argument, but she was mistaken, and it was ridiculous. If ever a woman was upon friendly terms with any man, they were sure to become lovers. I said, I shall continue to think as Miss Garth did, and that it depended very much upon the lady. Upon the 29th of March, I left Montague House, and the Princess commanded me to be sent up to her bed-chamber. I went and found her in bed, and I took Mrs. Vansittart's note in my hand, announcing the news of peace. She desired me to sit down close to the bed, and then taking my hand, she said, "You see, my dear friend, I have the most complaisant husband in the world—" "I have no one to controul *me*—I see whom I like, I go where I like, I spend what I please, and His Royal Highness pays for all—Other English husbands plague their wives, but he never plagues me at all, which is certainly being very polite and complaisant, and I am better off than my sister, who was heartily beat every day. How much happier am I than the Duchess of York! She and the Duke hate each other, and yet they will be two hypocrites, and live together—that I would never do.—Now I'll show you a letter wherein the Prince of Wales gives me full leave to follow my own plans." She then put the letter into my hands, the particulars of which I have mentioned. When I had finished, I appeared affected, and she said, "You seem to think that a fine thing; now I see nothing in it; but I dare to say that when my beloved had finished it, he fancied it one of the finest pieces of penmanship in the world. I should have been the

“ man, and he the woman. I am a real Brunswick, and do not know what the sensation Fear is ; but as to him, he lives in eternal warm water, and delights in it, if he can but have his slippers under any old Dowager’s table, and sit there scribbling notes; that’s his whole delight.” She then told me every circumstance relative to her marriage, and that she would be separated, and that she had invited the Chancellor very often lately, to try and accomplish it, but they were stupid, and told her it could not be done. It appeared to me that at this time Her Royal Highness’s mind was bent upon the accomplishment of this purpose ; and it would be found, I think, from Lord Eldon and the others, that she pressed this subject close upon them, whenever they were at Montague House ; for she told me more than once she had.\* Her Royal Highness, before she put the letter by, said, “ I always keep this, for it is ever necessary. I will go into the House of Lords with it myself. The Prince of Wales desires me in that letter, to choose my own plan of life, and amuse myself as I like ; and also, when I lived in Carlton House, he often asked me why I did not select some particular gentleman for my friend, and was surprized I did not.”—She then added, “ I am not treated at all as a Princess of Wales ought to be. As to the friendship of the Duke of Gloucester’s family, I understand that Prince William would like to marry either my daughter or me, if he could. I now, therefore, am desirous of forming a society of my own choosing, and I beg you always to remember, all your life, that I shall always be happy to see you. I think you very discreet, and the best woman in the world, and I beg you to consider the Tower always as your own ; there are offices, and you might almost live there ; and if Sir John is ever called away, do not go home to your family ; it is not pleasant after people have children, therefore

\* The Chancellor may now, perhaps, be able to grant her request.

N. B. *The passage contained in this Note is, in the authenticated Copy transmitted to the Princess of Wales, placed in the margin.*

“ always come to my Tower. I hope to see you very  
 “ soon again. The Prince has offered me sixty thou-  
 “ sand if I’ll go and live at Hanover, but I never  
 “ will ; this is the only country in the world to live  
 “ in.” She then kissed me, and I took my leave.

While I had been in the Round Tower in Montague House, which only consists of two rooms and a closet on a floor, I had always my maid and child slept within my room, and Sir John was generally with me ; he and all my friends having free permission to visit. Mrs.\* Cole (the Page) slept over my room, and a watchman went round the tower all night.—Upon my return home, the same apparent friendship continued, and in one of Her Royal Highness’s evening visits she told me she was come to have a long conversation with me, that she had been in a great agitation ; and I must guess what had happened to her. I guessed a great many things, but she said No to them all, and then said I gave it up, for I had no idea what she could mean, and therefore might guess my whole life without success. “ Well then, I must tell you,” said Her Royal Highness, “ but I am sure  
 “ you know all the while. I thought you had com-  
 “ pletely found me out, and therefore I came to you,  
 “ for you looked droll when I called for ale and fried  
 “ onions and potatoes, and when I said I eat tongue  
 “ and chickens at my breakfasts ; that I would sure  
 “ as my life you suspected me ; tell me honestly, did  
 “ you not ?” I affected not to understand the Princess at all, and did not really comprehend her. She then said, “ Well, I’ll tell ; I am with child, and the  
 “ child came to life when I was breakfasting with  
 “ Lady Willoughby. The milk flowed up into my  
 “ breast so fast, that it came through my muslin gown,  
 “ and I was obliged to pretend that I had spilt some-  
 “ thing, and go up stairs to wipe my gown with a  
 “ napkin, and got up stairs into Lady Willoughby’s  
 “ room, and did very well, but it was an unlucky

\* Query, Mr. Cole.



“adventure.” I was, indeed, most sincerely concerned for her, conceiving it impossible but she must be ruined, and I expressed my sorrow in the strongest terms, saying, what would she do? She could never carry such an affair through, and I then said, I hoped she was mistaken. She said No, she was sure of it, and these sort of things only required a good courage; that she should manage very well; but though she told me she would not employ me in the business, for I was like all the English women, so very nervous, and she had observed me so frightened a few days past, when a horse galloped near me, that she would not let me have any thing to do for the world. The Princess added, “You will be surprised to see how well I manage it, and I am determined to suckle the child myself.” I expressed my great apprehensions, and asked her what she would do if the Prince of Wales seized her person when she was a wet-nurse? She said she would never suffer any one to touch her person. She laughed at my fears, and added, “You know nothing about these things; if you had read *Les Aventures du Chevalier de Grammont*, you would know better what famous tricks Princesses and their Ladies played then, and you shall and must read the story of Catherine Parr and a Lady Douglas of those times; have you never heard of it?” She then related it, but as I never had heard of it, I looked upon it as her own invention to reconcile my mind to these kind of things. After this we often met, and the Princess often alluded to her situation and to mine, and one day, as we were sitting together upon the sofa, she put her hand upon her stomach, and said, laughing, “Well, here we sit like Mary and Elizabeth, in the Bible.” When she was bled, she used to press me always to be, and used to be quite angry that I would not, and whatever she thought good for herself always recommended to me. Her Royal Highness now took every occasion to estrange me from Sir John, by laughing at him, and wondering how I could be content with him; urged me constantly to keep my own room, and not to con-

tinue to sleep with him, and said, if I had any more children, she would have nothing more to say to me. Her design was evident, and easily seen through, and consequently averted. She naturally wished to keep us apart, lest, in a moment of confidence, I should repeat what she had divulged, and if she estranged me from my husband, she kept me to herself. I took especial care, therefore, that my regard for him should not be undermined. I never told him her situation, and, contrary to her wishes, Sir John and I remained upon the same happy terms we always had.

It will scarcely be credited, (nevertheless it is strictly true, and those who were present must avow it, or perjure themselves) what liberty the Princess gave both to her thoughts and her tongue, in respect to every part of the Royal Family. It was disgusting to us, beyond the power of language to describe, and upon such occasions we always believed and hoped she could not be aware of what she was talking about, otherwise common family affection, common sense, and common policy, would have kept her silent. She said before the two Fitzgeralds, Sir Sidney Smith, and ourselves, that when Mr. Addington had his house given him, His Majesty did not know what he was about, and waved her hand round and round her head, laughing, and saying, "Certainly he did not; but the Queen got twenty thousand, so that was all very well." We were all at a loss, and no one said any thing. This was at my house one morning; the rest of the morning passed in abusing Mr. Addington (now Lord Sidmouth), and her critiques upon him closed by saying, "It was not much wonder a peace was not lasting, when it was made by the son of a quack doctor." Before Miss Hamond, one evening at my house, she said, "Prince William is going to Russia, and there is to be a grand alliance with a Russian Princess, but it is not very likely a Russian Princess will marry the grandson of a washerwoman." Sir Sidney Smith, who was present, begged her pardon, asserted it was not so, and wished to stop her, but she contradicted

him, and entered into all she knew of the private history of the Duchess's mother, saying, "she was literally a common washerwoman, and the Duchess need not to take so much pains and not to expose her skin to the open air, when her mother had been in it all day long." When she was gone, Sir John was very much disgusted, and said, Her conversation had been so low and ill-judged, and so much below her, that he was perfectly ashamed of her, and she disgraced her station. Sir Sidney Smith agreed, and confessed he was astonished, for it must be confessed she was not deserving of her station. After the Duke of Kent had been so kind as to come and take leave of her, before he last left England, upon the day I mentioned, she delivered her critique upon His Royal Highness, saying, "He had the manners of a Prince, but was a disagreeable man, and not to be trusted, and that His Majesty had told him, 'Now; Sir, when you go to Gibraltar, do not make such a trade of it as you did when you went to Halifax.' The Princess repeated, Upon my honour it is true; the King said, 'Do not make such a trade of it.' She went on to say, "the Prince at first ordered them all to keep away, but they came now sometimes: however, they were no loss, for there is not a man among them all whom any one can make their friend." As I was with the Princess one morning in her garden house, His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland waited upon her. As soon as he was gone she said, "He was a foolish boy, and had been asking her a thousand foolish questions." She then told me every word of his secrets, which he had been telling her; in particular, a long story of Miss Keppel, and that he said, the old woman left them together, and wanted to take him in, and therefore he had cut the connection. She said, she liked his countenance best, but she could trace a little family likeness to herself; but for all the rest they were very ill made, and had plum-pudding faces, which she could not bear. His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge was next ridiculed. She said,

“ he looked exactly like a sergeant, and so vulgar “ with his ears full of powder.” This was her Royal Highness’s usual and favorite mode of amusing herself and her company. The conversation was always about men, praising the English men, reviling all English women, as being the ugliest creatures in the world, and the worst, and always engaged in some project or another, as the impulse of the moment might prompt, without regard to consequences or appearances. Whether she amused other people in the same way, I know not, but she chose to relate to me every private circumstance she knew relative to every part of the Royal Family, and also every thing relative to her own, with such strange anecdotes, and circumstantial accounts of things that never are talked of, that I again repeat, I hope I shall never hear again ; and I remember once in my lying-in-room, she gave such an account of Lady Anne Wyndham’s marriage, and all her husband said on the occasion, that Mrs. Fitzgerald sent her daughter out of the room, while her Royal Highness finished her story. Such was the person we found Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and as we continued to see her character and faults, Sir John and myself more and more, daily and hourly, regretted that the world could not see her as we did, and that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales should have lost *any popularity*, when, from her own account (the only account we ever had) *she* was the aggressor from the beginning, herself *alone*, and I, as an humble individual, declare, that from the most *heartfelt* and unfeigned conviction, that I believe, if any other married woman had acted as her Royal Highness has done, I never yet have known a man who could have endured it ; and her temper is so tyrannical, capricious, and furious, that no man on earth will ever bear it ; and, in private life, any woman who had thus played and sported with her husband’s comfort and her husband’s popularity, would have been turned out of her house, or left by herself in it, and would deservedly have forfeited her

place in society. I therefore again beg leave to repeat, from the conviction of my own unbiassed understanding, and the conviction of my own eyes, no human being could live with her, excepting her servants for their wages; and any poor unfortunate woman like the Fitzgeralds, for their dinner; and I trust and hope her real character will some time or another be displayed, that the people of this country may not be imposed upon. The Princess was now sometimes kind and at others churlish, especially if I would not fall into her plans of ridiculing Sir John. About this time, one day at table with her, she began abusing Lady Rumbold (whom she had invited to see her a few days before, to give her letters of recommendation if she went to Brunswick,) and as the abuse was in the usual violent vulgar stile, and I had never seen Lady Rumbold but that one morning when she was her Royal Highness's guest, and cared nothing about her, I did not join in reviling her and Miss Rumbold. Sir Sidney Smith was present, and as there appeared a great friendship between the Rumbolds and him, I thought it not civil to him to say any thing, and one always conceives, in being quite silent, one must be safe from offending any party. I was, however, mistaken; for, observing me silent, she looked at me in a dreadful passion, and said, "Why don't you speak, Lady Douglas, I know you think her ugly as well as us—a vulgar common milliner; Lord Heavens! that she was; and her daughter looks just like a girl that walk up the street." I suppose she expected, by this thundering appeal, to force me to join in the abuse; but it had a contrary effect upon me. I chose to judge entirely for myself, and I was determined I would not; therefore, when she had raved until she could go on no longer, I said I did not think her ugly; it was a harsh term.—I thought her manner very bad, and that she was very ill-dressed; but, when young, I thought she must have been a pretty woman. This was past her power of enduring, which I really did not know, or I would have remained silent. She



fixed her eyes furiously upon me, and bawled out, "Then you're a liar, you're a liar, and the little child you're going to have will be a liar." I pushed my plate from me, eat no more, and remained silent, and my first impulse was to push back my chair and quit the house; but the idea that I should break up the party from table, and make a confusion, and also my not being able to walk home, and my carriage not being ordered until night, left me in my chair. The conversation was changed; at last, Sir Sidney said again, "Well, these Ladies have had a severe trimming, they had better not have come to Blackheath, and there sits poor Lady Douglas, looking as if she were going to be executed." As I was very far advanced in my pregnancy, it agitated me greatly, and I remained aloof and very shy all the evening. When I afterwards wrote to Sir Sidney Smith for Sir John, upon some common occurrence, I said, I do not like the Princess of Wales's mode of treating her guests: her calling me a liar was an unpardonable thing, and if she ever speaks upon the subject to you, pray tell her I did not like it, and that if I had been a man, I would have rather died than endured it; that is a thing which never, by any chance, occurs to a Lady; on a repetition of it I will give up her acquaintance. It seems Sir Sidney Smith spoke to the Princess upon the subject; for two days before I was confined, she made me a morning visit with the two Fitzgeralds, and, after having sat a short time, said, "I find you were very much affronted the other day at my house, when I called you a liar; I declare I did not mean it as an affront; Lord Heavens! in any other language it is considered a joke; is it not Mrs. Fitzgerald?" meaning, that in Germany it is a very good joke to call people liars (for Mrs. Fitzgerald does not know any language but German and English); Mrs. Fitzgerald absolutely said, Yes. They made me very nervous, and I burst into tears, and told the Princess I only wished her to understand such a thing was never done, and was far from desiring her to apologize to me; that I had now forgiven and forgotten it, though

I confess, at the time, I was very much hurt, and very much wounded ; that as I never heard of its being thought a joke in any country, I was not in the least prepared to receive it in that light ; for that, in this country, ladies never used the expression, and men only to shew their greatest contempt ; that I never bore malice twelve hours in my life, and there was an end of the matter. The Fitzgeralds sat by, sometimes as audience, approving by looks ; sometimes as orators, begging me not to cry, (after they had all made me), and praising her Royal Highness as the most magnanimous, amiable, good, beautiful, and gracious Princess in the world. In short, they tormented me till they made me quite hysterical ; and the Princess began then to be frightened, and they all got up to look about the room for hartshorn, or something of that kind, to give me—the Princess crying, “ Give her something, give her something ; she is very much shook, and her nerves agitated ; she will be taken ill.” They gave me some water, I believe, and I did all I could to recover my spirits ; but I felt in pain, and Sir John came in soon after, and as I knew it would hurry him if he saw me ill, I appeared as cheerful as I could, and they all went away, the Princess taking no notice to him. Her Royal Highness had always said, she would be at my lying-in from the beginning to the end, and commanded me constantly to let her know, saying, “ I have no fear about me, and I would as soon come over the heath in the middle of the night as in the day ; I shall have a bottle of port wine on a table to keep up your spirits, a tambourinè, and I’ll make you sing.” I was unwell all the night after her Royal Highness had been with me, and remained so all next day ; and next morning, by six o’clock, was so ill, that Dr. Mackie, of Lewisham, who was to attend me, was sent for. In the forenoon I begged Sir John to write a note to Montague House, where it so happened I was to have dined with the party. He wrote that I had a head-ache, and begged leave to remain at home, and the Princess believed it, and went to town ; but

upon her return, at five o'clock in the afternoon, she called before she went home to dress, to ask after me, and finding how it was, wanted to run up into the room, but Dr. Mackie said positively she should not come, and locked the door nearest to him to keep her out. Miss Cholmondeley and Miss Fitzgerald were drove home, and her Royal Highness and Mrs. Fitzgerald stopped. Upon my giving a loud shriek, she flew in at the other door, and came to me, doing every thing she possibly could to assist me, and held my eyes and head. The moment she heard the child's voice she left me, flew round to Dr. Mackie, pushed the nurse away, and received the child from Dr. Mackie, kissed it, and said no one should touch it until she had shewn it to me. Doctor Mackie was so confused and astonished, that, although an old practitioner he left the room, without giving me any thing to recruit my strength, and avert fainting, as is the custom, and the nurse gave me what she thought best; by which omission, however, I was not subject to faint away, but it was certainly a new mode of proceeding where life is at stake, and shewed more curiosity than tenderness for me. Before my little girl was brought to me, I observed, as her Royal Highness stood holding it, that Mrs. Fitzgerald, the nurse, and herself, were all intent, and speaking together, as if there was something peculiar in its appearance; the circumstance alarmed me, fearing it was born with some defect, and I asked eagerly to see it, and if all was right. The Princess upon this brought it to me, and said it was a remarkable large fine child, and they were only looking at a mark it had upon its left breast, certainly a very large one, and a little on its eyes, but it would go off. I recollected that, although I never, when in a pregnant state, was subject to whims, longing, as thinking it very troublesome and foolish, yet I felt obliged, in this instance, to believe the old-received opinion to be correct; for it happened, that, during my visit to Montague House in March, I was one Sunday morning very much incommoded by pains in my chest and stomach, and her Royal Highness made

Mrs. Sander give me some warm peppermint-water ; there was raspberry-ice in the desert the same day, and I had just began to eat mine, when the Princess looked at me, and said, “ My dear Lady Douglas, “ you have forgotten the pain you were in this morning ;” and, turning to her page, ordered him to take away my plate.

(Signed)

CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS.  
JOHN DOUGLAS.

In the presence of me,

(Signed)

AUGUSTUS FREDERICK,

*Dec. 3, 1805.*

A true copy,

(Signed). *B. Bloomfield.*

—— Mr. Cole, the page, removed, and I can never describe my disappointment ; I was almost inclined to remonstrate, although there was a large party of strangers, and I did express a desire to retain it, but the Princess would not allow of it: and as she had appointed herself to the sole management of me, I was obliged to be quiet: my uneasiness, however, became extreme ; and forgetting every thing but the ice in question, I asked a Mr. Hamer, who sat next to me, to be so good as to ask for some ice ; and, by dint of asking him to do so, I at length induced him, and at last he asked Lady Townshend for some more ice. I immediately took my spoon, and stooping a little, so that the flowers upon the plateau concealed me in part from the Princess, eat all Mr. Hamer’s ice, while he looked on laughing, and put his plate a little nearer to me that it might not look so odd. The following day I eat eight glasses of raspberry ice at once, and was very well after it: and from that time sought it every where, and eat of it voraciously ; and I cannot help attributing the marks of my little girl to the circumstance. Her Royal Highness then kissed me, begged me to send for her whenever I

liked, and she would come; desired I might have plenty of flannel about me, of which she had sent me some by Mrs. Fitzgerald, and then went home to dinner. I know not what she said or did among her party at home, but Miss Cholmondeley often said she should never forget the Princess on that day. All the month of August the Princess visited me daily; in one of these visits, after she had sent Mrs. Fitzgerald away, she drew her chair close to the bed, and said, "I am delighted to see how well and easily you have got through this affair; I, who am not the least nervous, shall make nothing at all of it. When you hear of my having taken children in baskets from poor people, take no notice; that is the way I mean to manage: I shall take any that offer, and the one I have will be presented in the same way, which, as I have taken others, will never be thought any thing about." I asked her, how she would ever get it out of the house? but she said, Oh, very easily. I said it was a perilous business; I would go abroad if I were her: but she laughed at my fears, and said she had no doubt but of managing it all very well. I was very glad she did not ask me to assist her, for I was determined in my own mind never to do so, and she never did make any request of me, for which I was very thankful. I put the question to her, who she would get to deliver her? but she did not answer for a minute, and then said, I shall get a person over; I'll manage it, but never ask me about it; Sander was a good creature, and being immediately about her person and sleeping near her room, must be told; but Miss Ghaunt must be sent to Germany, and the third maid, a young girl, kept out of the way as well as they could. I suggested, I was afraid that her appearance at St. James's could not fail to be observed, and she would have to encounter all the Royal Family. Her reply was, That she knew how to manage her dress, and by continually increasing large cushions behind, no one would observe, and fortunately the Birth-days were over, until she should have got rid of her appearance. In this manner



passed all the time of my confinement, at the end of which she sent Mrs. Fitzgerald to attend me to church, and when I went to pay my duty to Her Royal Highness, after I went abroad again, she told me, whenever I was quite stout, she would have the child christened, that she meant to stand in person, and I must find another godmother; Sir Sidney Smith would be the godfather. I named the Duchess of Athol, as a very amiable woman, of suitable rank, and said, that as there had been a long friendship betwixt Sir John's family and the Athol family, I knew it would be very agreeable to him. Finding they were gone to Scotland, we wrote to ask her Grace; and she wrote word she would stand godmother with great pleasure, and inclosed ten guineas for the nurse. The Princess invited Sir Sidney Smith, and Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Smith, and Baron Herbert, and Sir John Douglas, to dine with her. Miss Cholmondeley and the two Fitzgeralds were with her Royal Highness, and in the evening they all came; I staid at home to receive her. The Clergyman from Lewisham christened the child; the Princess named it Caroline Sidney. As soon as he was gone (which was shortly after the ceremony was over), the Princess sat down upon the carpet—a thing she was very fond of doing, in preference to sitting upon the chairs, saying, it was the pleasantest lively affair altogether she had ever known. She chose to sit upon the carpet the whole evening, while we all sat upon the chairs. Her Royal Highness was dressed in the lace dress which, I think, she wore at Frogmore fête—pearl necklace, bracelets, and arm-bands, a pearl bandeau round her head, and a long lace veil. When supper was announced, her Royal Highness went and took the head of the table, and eat an amazing supper of chicken and potted lamprey, which she would have served to her on the same plate, and eat them together. After the supper she called the attention of the party to my good looks, and saying I was as lively and *espiegle* as ever; said, that I had such sharp eyes, I found her out in every thing, adding, Oh! she found me out one day in such a thing when I was at

luncheon, and gave me a look which was so expressive, that I was sure she knew. This speech, which she, between herself and me, was algebra to the party. I did not know what to do, but I saw the secret cost her dear to keep, and she was ready to betray it to any one she met, by the strange things she said and did; I laughed and said, if my eyes have been too observing I am sorry, I never intended them to be; I cannot be quite so polite as to say, "if my sight offends I will put it out," because I think, with Sheridan, that the prejudice is strongly in favour of two; but depend upon it, at all future luncheons I will do nothing but eat. She was in great spirits, staid until two o'clock in the morning, and then, attended by Miss Cholmondeley and the Fitzgeralds, went home. Her Royal Highness's civilities continued; she desired me constantly to bring my children to Montague House, and also the infant: and when I would have retired to have suckled it, she would not suffer me, but commanded me to do it in the drawing-room where she was; and she came with her ladies visiting me both mornings and evenings, and nursing little Caroline for hours together. I saw now the Princess had told Mrs. Sander, who, I believe, was a very quiet good kind of woman, and her countenance was full of concern and anxiety. She appeared desirous of speaking to me, and was unusually obsequious: but the Princess always watched us both close; if Sander came into a room, and I went towards her, the Princess came close, or sent one or another away, so that I could never speak to her. The Princess had now quarrelled with Sir Sidney Smith, to whom she had been so partial, and to every part of whose family she had been so kind, telling us constantly that she liked them all, because old Mr. Smith had saved the Duke of Brunswick's life. As Sir John was Sir Sidney's friend, she therefore was shy of us all, and we saw little of her—but on the 30th of October I went to call upon her before I left Blackheath, and met her Royal Highness just returned from church, walking before her own house with Mrs. Fitzgerald and her

daughter, dressed in a long Spanish velvet cloak and an enormous muff, but which together could not conceal the way she was in, for I saw directly she was very near her time, and think I must have seen it if I had not known her situation. She appeared morose, and talked a little, but did not ask to go in, and after taking a few turns returned home. In about a fortnight we received a note, the Princess requesting neither Sir John or I to go to Montague House, as her servants were afraid some of the children she had taken had the measles, and if any infection remained about the house, we might carry it to our child. We wrote a note expressive of our thanks for her obliging precautions, and that we would not go to Montague House, until we had the honour of receiving her Royal Highness's commands. The Princess never sent for us, and when I left my card before I went to pass Christmas in Gloucestershire, I was not admitted: so that *I never saw her after the 13th\* of October*; but I heard the report of her having adopted an infant, and Miss Fitzgerald told it me as she rode past my house, but would not come in, *for fear she should bring the measles*. Upon my return to Blackheath in January, I called to pay my duty. I found her packing a small black box, and an infant sleeping on a sofa, with a piece of scarlet cloth thrown over it. She appeared confused, and hesitated whether she should be rude or kind, but recovering herself, chose to be the latter; said, she was happy to see me, and then taking me by the hand led me to the sofa, and uncovering the child, said, Here is the little boy, I had him two days after I saw you last; is not it a nice little child? the upper part of his face is very fine. She was going to have said more, when Mrs. Fitzgerald opened the door and came in. The Princess consulted what I had better have, what would be good for me. I declined any thing, but she insisted upon it I should have some soup, and said, my dear Fitzgerald, pray go out and order some nice brown

\* 30th.

soup to be brought here for Lady Douglas. I saw from this the Princess wished to have spoken to me more fully, and Mrs. Fitzgerald saw it likewise, for instead of obeying, she rung the bell for the soup, and then sat down to tell me the whole of the fable of the child having been brought by a poor woman from Deptford, whose husband had left her, that Mr. Stikeman, the page, had the honour of bringing it in, that it was a poor little ill-looking thing when first brought, but' now, with such great care, was growing very pretty, and that as her Royal Highness was so good, and had taken the twins (whose father would not let them remain) and taken this, all the poor people would be bringing children. The Princess now took the child up, and I was entertained the whole morning by seeing it fed, and *every service of every kind performed for it by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales.* Mrs. Fitzgerald aired the napkins, and *the Princess put them on;* and from this time the drawing-rooms at Montague House, were literally in the stile of a common nursery. The tables were covered with spoons, plates, feeding-boats, and clothes, round the fire; napkins were hung to air, and the *marble hearths were strewn with napkins which were taken from the child;* for, very extraordinary to relate, *this* was a part of the ceremony *Her Royal Highness was particularly tenacious of always performing herself,* let the company be who they might. At first, the child slept with her she told me, but it made her nervous, and therefore a nurse was hired to assist in taking charge of it, and for him to sleep with. The Princess said one day to me as she was nursing him, he had a little milk for two or three days, but it did not do, so we bring him up by hand with all kind of nourishing things, and you see how well he thrives; so that I really always supposed she had attempted to suckle it. Another time she shewed me his hand, which has a pink mark upon it, and said, it was very singular *both our children* should be marked, and she thought *her child's* came from her having some wine thrown on her hand, for she did not look much at little.

Caroline's mark. The Princess now adopted a new mode of inviting us to see her. She would invite either Sir John or I, but never both together as formerly. I concluded from *this*, that as she found it so difficult to keep *even her own secret*, she could ill imagine I had been able *to keep hers*, and therefore under the impression that by *that time* I must have told Sir John, did not like to meet both our eyes; and if she saw Sir John without me, could better judge by his looks and manner whether I had divulged or not. I conclude she was at length satisfied I had not: for we were one morning both invited again in the former manner, to a breakfast, and as it was a very curiously arranged party, I will put down the names, for, to the person who is to peruse this detail, it will confirm the idea that Her Royal Highness cannot always know correctly what she is about. When we entered, the Princess was sitting upon the sofa, elegantly dressed in a white and silver drapery, which covered her head and fell all over her person, and she had her little boy upon her knee elegantly dressed likewise. The guests were, Her Royal Highness Princess Charlotte of Wales, with Miss Hunt, her governess, Captain Manby, of the navy, Mr. Spencer Smith, the Fitzgeralds, and ourselves. She got up and nursed the child, and carrying it to Sir John, said "Here Sir John, this is the Deftord boy, I suppose you have heard I have taken a little child." Sir John only said, Yes, he had, and it seemed a fine baby. She seemed pleased and satisfied that I had not told him, and she then sat down to table, putting a chair for Princess Charlotte on her right hand, taking me by the hand and putting me on the left hand, told Captain Manby to sit at the top, and Mr. Spencer Smith at the bottom, and Sir John and the Fitzgeralds faced us. Princess Charlotte had a plain dinner prepared for her in another room, according to custom, and came in when our desert was placed, when we all sat down again as we were sitting, except Miss Hunt, who was never ordered to sit, but stood a few yards from Prin-



ness Charlotte. About five o'clock her Royal Highness rose from table, the little boy was brought in again, Princess Charlotte played with it, and the Princess of Wales wished all of us a good morning, and we broke up, totally at a loss to conceive what amusement it could be to collect us together. This breakfast was a kind of *finale*. We had very little intercourse. Her Royal Highness would walk past our house, for the express purpose of shewing she did not mean to come in, and when we did see her she always abused Sir Sidney Smith. Often said, she wondered I liked to live at such a dull place as Blackheath, and in short, gave us hints we could not misunderstand, that she wanted us away. At this time Sir John received a letter from his division, expressive of the General's wish that he would go to Plymouth, and therefore (without an Admiralty Order) he determined to go to emancipate ourselves from the Princess of Wales, and as soon as we could dispose of the furniture, I followed him, leaving the house empty, which was ours three months after I quitted it. The day Sir John was to set off, the Princess walked to our house, and though his trunks were in the room, and he was occupied, would have him sit down and talk to her, *overpowering* him and myself *now* with kindness, and said, she could eat something. She did so, staid four hours in the house, and at parting, took Sir John by both hands, wished him every good wish, and begged him always to recollect how happy she should be to see him again, and that she would be *very kind to me in his absence*; however, after he was gone, she never came near me, or offered me any kind of civility whatsoever. When I was upon the eve of departure, I called upon her and took her god-daughter and my other little girl with me. She was almost uncivil, and paid little or no attention if I spoke. I said the children were with me, but she did not answer, and after speaking four or five hours very unpleasantly, suffering all the unpleasant feeling of being where I had been courted and idolized, I begged permission at last to go away. When I went out, to my surprise, I

found the children had been kept in the passage near the front door, with the door open to Blackheath, in a December day, with four opposite doors opened and shut upon them, instead of being taken to the house-keeper's room, as they always had been. My maid had at length begged the footman to go to a fire, as the children cried dreadfully and were very cold. I understand the man was a footman, of the name of Gaskin, I think, and his answer was, if the children are cold, you can put them back into the carriage, and warm them. I took them home immediately, and was inclined to return and ask why they had been thus all of a sudden treated with this brutality and impertinence, and which was doubly cruel in Sir John's absence; but I deferred going until I meant to take my final leave, which I did on the following Sunday. Doctor Burnaby was standing in the hall with every thing prepared for the Princess to receive the sacrament. I was ushered through notwithstanding, and the footmen seemed to go to and fro as much at their ease, as if no such thing was preparing. She was standing in the drawing room, and received me with Mrs. Lisle and Mrs. Fitzgerald. I said I should have been gone before, had it been in my power, and in compliance with her commands, had come to take my leave. She did not ask me to sit down, but said—God bless you; good bye. I then said, I was much concerned I had brought my little girls a few days past, and that I should never have done so, but from her Royal Highness's repeated desire. She said, she was sorry; and asked, who used them so. I told her, one of her livery servants, and Sir John would not like to hear of it. Her Royal Highness said, stop a moment; flew past me through the hall where Doctor Burnaby stood waiting for her, up to her own room, and returned with a white-paper box, pushing it into my hand—God bless you, my dear Lady Douglas. I said, I wished to decline taking any thing, that my object in coming there was to offer her my duty, and tell her how ill my children had been used. I could not conceive

how any footman could use the freedom of treating Sir John's children so, unless he had been desired. She only answered, "Oh! no, indeed: good bye." I attempted to put the box into her hands, saying I had rather not have it; but she dropt her hands and turned away. I therefore wished Mrs. Lisle and Miss Fitzgerald good morning, and went away. Doctor Burnaby spoke to me as I passed him, and, looking back, I saw her Royal Highness's head; she was looking out after me, to see if she had fairly got rid of me, and laughing immoderately at Dr. Burnaby in his gown, I quitted her house, resolved never to re-enter it but for form's sake, and wrote her word, that as I had long been treated rudely, and my children, whom she courted to her house, were now insulted there, I felt a dislike to accepting a present thrown at me, as it were, under such unpleasant circumstances; that I had not untied the box, and requested she would permit me to return it; and that as I was an English gentlewoman, and defied her to say she had ever seen a single impropriety in my conduct, I would never suffer myself to be ill used without a clear explanation. The Princess wrote back a most haughty imperious reply, desiring me to keep the box, stiled herself Princess of Wales in almost every line, and insulted me to such a degree, that I returned an answer insisting upon her explaining herself. This she returned me unopened, saying, she would not open my second letter, and had therefore sent it to me to put in the fire, and that she was ready to put the matter in oblivion, as she desired me to do, wished me and my dear little children well, and should at all times be glad to see her former neighbour. I did as she desired, and went away at Christmas without ever seeing or hearing more of her Royal Highness, and found in the paper box a gold necklace, with a medallion suspended from it of a mock.

Thus ended my intercourse, for the present, with the Princess of Wales, and the year 1803.

When we resided in Devonshire, seeing by the papers that her Royal Highness was ill, we sent a note of inquiry to the lady in waiting, which was answered very politely, and even in a friendly manner by her Royal Highness's orders. Upon the arrival of the Duke of Sussex from abroad, Sir John returned to town to attend him, and when we drove to Blackheath to see our friends, I left my card for her Royal Highness, who was visiting Mr. Canning; the moment she returned home she commanded Mrs. Vernon to send me word never to repeat my visits to Blackheath. I gave Sir John the note, and must confess, accustomed as I had been to her haughty overbearing caprice, yet this exceeded my belief of what she was capable of, being so inconsistent with her two last letters; but the fact was, she thought we were gone above 200 miles from her, and should be there for many years, and she never calculated upon the return of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, having very often told me his Royal Highness would never live in England, in his Majesty's life time; that she was certain of that, and had reasons for knowing it; and Sir John would never have him here. I suppose she had taken this into her head, because she wished it; and, therefore, the return of his Royal Highness was a mortal death-blow to all her hopes on this score; and when she found that his Royal Highness was not only returned, but that Sir John was in attendance, and that his Royal Highness was in Carlton House, where Sir John might see, and have the honour of being made known to the Prince of Wales, her *fear* and *rage* got the better of every prudent consideration, and she commanded Mrs. Vernon to dismiss me as I have mentioned. Had the Princess of Wales written to me herself, and told me, in a civil manner, that she would thank me to keep away, I should have acquainted her, that I wished and desired to do so, and had only called for the sake of appearances, and there the matter would have ended; unless I had ever been called upon (as I am now) by his Majesty.

or the Heir Apparent. *In that case*, as in this, I should have made it my sacred duty to have answered, as upon my oath; but the circumstance of being driven out of her house by the hands of the lady in waiting, as if I had deserved it, and as if I were a culprit, was wounding one with a poisoned arrow, which left the wound to fester after it had torn and stabbed me; it was a refinement in insult, for the Princess had always been in the habit of writing to me *herself*, and had commanded me never to hold intercourse with her through her ladies, but *always* directly to *herself*; and so particular were her directions and permission upon this head, that she told me never to put my letters under cover, but always direct them to herself. I felt so miserable, that Mrs. Vernon, to whom I was known, and for whom Sir John and myself had an esteem, should think ill of me, and I therefore wrote to the Princess, saying, “From the moment she judged proper to come into my family, I had always conducted myself towards her Royal Highness with the respect her high station demanded; and that when she forced her secrets upon me, I had (whatsoever my sentiments were) kept them most honourably for her, never yet having even told Sir John, although I gave him my full confidence in all other things; nor had I even, under my present aggravation, imparted it, or meant; —that after such generous conduct on my part, I was at a loss to conceive what she proposed to *herself* by persecuting me; that I was afflicted at being so placed in the opinion of a good woman, like Mrs. Vernon, and who was free to say what she pleased upon the subject *every where*; that it was half as bad to be *thought* ill of as to deserve it; and that I would wait upon Mrs. Vernon, and detail to her a circumstantial account of every thing which had occurred since I had known her Royal Highness; and I would acquaint my husband and family with the same, and leave them, and the circle of my friends, to judge betwixt her Royal Highness and myself; that I would not lie under an imputation of having done



wrong ; and I took my leave of Her Royal Highness *for ever*, only first regretting I had ever known her, and thankful to be emancipated from Montague House, and that she owed it to me to have, at least, dismissed me in a civil manner, by her *own hands*." This letter her Royal Highness returned unopened ; but, from its appearance, I had strong reason to believe she had read it. I was resolved, however, if she had not, she should be taught better, as she might not treat any other person so ill as she had me, and my mind was bent upon speaking to Mrs. Vernon : I was nearly certain, if I wrote to Mrs. Vernon, the Princess would make her send my letter back, and therefore I wrote Mrs. Fitzgerald nearly a copy of what I sent Her Royal Highness, and called upon *her*, as she had been always present, to say, if she ever saw any thing in my behaviour to justify any rudeness towards me ; that I was precisely what the Princess found me, when the Princess walked up *to her knees in snow to seek my acquaintance*, and precisely *the same individual* whom she had thought worthy of the strongest proofs of her friendship, and whose lying-in she had attended in so particular a manner, and had thought worthy of shedding tears over ; that Her Royal Highness had thought proper to confide in me a secret, of very *serious importance* to herself ; and I would not, after acting in the most honourable manner to *her*, be dismissed by a lady in waiting ; and I meant to be at Montague House, and have a satisfactory conversation with Mrs. Vernon ; and therefore she would be so good as to acquaint Her Royal Highness with the contents of my letter, or lay it before Her Royal Highness. Mrs. Fitzgerald sent back a confused note, saying, she could not shew the Princess my letter, unless she was called upon ; and when she opened it her disappointment was great, for she expected to have found respectful inquiries after Her Royal Highness's finger (which was hurt when she went to see Mr. Canning), and that I might make my mind easy, as ladies in waiting never repeated any thing ; and she was astonished I had thrown out

such a hint. A day or two after a note was sent to Sir John, as if nothing had happened, requesting him to go to Montague House. The servant who brought it drove Mrs. Vernon from Blackheath home to her own house in town, and I have no doubt it will be found (if inquiry is made) that Mrs. Vernon was put prematurely out of her waiting, lest I should explain with her. Sir John obeyed Her Royal Highness's summons, and she received him in the most gracious pleasant manner, taking as much pains to please and flatter him *now* as she had formerly done by me, and began a conversation with him relating to a General Innes, of the Marines, whom the Admiralty thought proper, with many others, to put upon the retired list; she expressed an ardent desire to get that officer reinstated, and consulted Sir John, as belonging to the same corps, how she could accomplish such an undertaking. Sir John listened to her attentively, and made her short and very polite answers acquainting her that no such thing was ever done. She then said she must speak to Lord Melville about it, as it was a hard case. The luncheon was then announced, and she ordered Sir John to attend herself and the ladies. Sir John found Mrs. Vernon was sent off, and a lady was there whom he did not know, but thought it was Lady Carnarvon. When they were all seated Sir John remained on his legs, and she looked anxiously at him, and said, "My dear John, sit down and eat." He bowed, with distant respect, and said, he could not eat; that he was desirous of returning to town; and if Her Royal Highness had no further business with him, he would beg leave to go. The Princess looked quite disconcerted, and said, what, not eat any thing? not sit down? pray take a glass of wine then. He bowed again as before, and repeated that he could neither eat nor drink. Well then, she said, "Come again soon, my dear John; always glad to see you." Sir John made no reply, bowed and left the room. I now received, by the twopenny post, a long anonymous letter, written, by this restless mischievous person

the Princess of Wales, in which, in language which any one who had ever heard her speak, would have known to be hers, she called me all kind of names, impudent, *silly, wretched, ungrateful*, and illiteral (meaning illiterate), she tells me to take *that*; and it will mend my *ill temper*, &c. &c. &c. and says, she is a person high in this government, and has often an opportunity of\* freely with His Majesty, and she thinks my conduct authorizes her to tell him off, and that *she* is my only true and *integer friend*. Such is the spirit of this foreigner, which would have disgraced a housemaid to have written, and it incloses a fabricated anonymous letter, which she pretends to have received, and upon which she built her doubts and disapprobation of me, as it advises her not to trust me, for I am indiscreet, and tell every body that the child she took from Deptford, was her own. The whole construction of both these epistles, from beginning to end, are evidently that of a foreigner, and a very ignorant one, and the vulgarity of it is altogether quite shocking. In one part she exclaims that she did not think that I should have had the *impudence* to come *on her door* again, and tells me 'tis for my being *indiscreet and not having allowed her to call me a liar*, that she treats me *thus*, and that I would do well to remember the story of *Henry the Eighth's Queen, and Lady Douglas*. I was instantly satisfied it was from her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and that Mrs. Fitzgerald had shewn her my letter, and this was her answer to it. I immediately carried it to Sir John Douglas, who said he was sure it came from the Princess, and he shewed it to Sir Sidney Smith, who said, every word and expression in it were those which the Princess of Wales constantly used. Sir John desired me now to give him a full explanation of what her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales had confided to me, and whether I had ever mentioned it. I gave him my solemn word of honour it had never passed my lips, and I was only

\* So in the authenticated copy; some words seem omitted.

now going to utter it at his positive desire. That her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales told me she was with child, and that it came to life at Lady Wiltoughby's, that if she was discovered she would give the Prince of Wales the credit, for she slept at Carlton House twice the year she was pregnant; that she often spoke of her situation, compared herself and me to Mary and Elizabeth, and told me when she shewed me the child, that it was the little boy she had two days after I last saw her, that was the 30th of October; therefore her son was born on the 1st of November, and I take a retrospect view of things after I knew the day of his birth, and found her Royal Highness must have gone down stairs and dined with all the Chancellors about the fourth day after she was delivered, with the intention, if discovered, of having them all to say they dined with her in perfect health so early in November, that it could not be. Sir John recollected all her whims, and went over her whole conduct, and he firmly believes her to be *the mother of the reputed Deptford child*. I then acquainted him of the pains she had taken to estrange my mind and affections from him, and he saw her pursuit of now changing sides, and endeavouring to estrange him from me, lest, if we lived in a happy state of confidence, I might make known her situation to him; and we agreed that as we had no means of communicating at present with his Majesty, or the Heir Apparent, we must wait patiently until called upon to bring forward her conduct, as there seemed little doubt we should one day be. Finding that Sir John Douglas did not choose to visit where his wife was discarded and hurt in the estimation of her acquaintance, her fury became so unbounded, that she sought what she could do most atrocious, wicked, and inhuman, she reached her\* it would seem, that the result was, she made two drawings with a pen and ink, and sent them to us by the two-penny post, representing me as having disgraced my-

\* A blank in the authenticated copy.

self with his old friend Sir Sidney Smith. They are of the most indecent nature, drawn with her own hand, and words upon them in her own hand-writing. Sir John, Sir Sidney, and myself, can all swear point blank without a moment's hesitation ; and if her Royal Highness is a subject and amenable to the laws of this country (and I conceive her to be so) she ought to be tried and judged by those laws for doing thus, to throw firebrands into the bosom of a quiet family. My husband with that cool good sense which has ever marked his character, and with a belief in my innocence, which nothing but facts can stagger (for it is founded upon my having been faithful to him nine years before we were married, and seven years since), as well as his long acquaintance with Sir Sidney Smith's character and disposition, and having seen the Princess of Wales's loose and vicious character, put the letters in his pocket, and went instantly to Sir Sidney Smith. Sir Sidney was as much astonished as we had been. Sir John then told him, he put the question to him, and expected an answer such as an officer and gentleman ought to give to his friend : Sir Sidney Smith gave Sir John his hand, as his old friend and companion, and assured him in the most solemn manner, as an officer and gentleman, that the whole was the most audacious and wicked calumny ; and he would swear to its being the hand-writing of the Princess of Wales ; and that he believed Lady Douglas to be the same virtuous domestic woman he thought her when Sir John first made him known to her. Sir Sidney added, " I never said a word to your wife, but what you might have heard ; and had I been so base as to attempt any thing of the kind under your roof, I should deserve for you to shoot me like a mad dog. I am ready to go with Lady Douglas and yourself, and let us ask her what she means by it ; confront her." Accordingly Sir John wrote a note to the lady in waiting, which was to this effect : " Sir John and Lady Douglas, and Sir Sidney Smith, present their compliments to the lady in waiting, and request she will have the goodness to



say to her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, that they are desirous of having an audience of her Royal Highness immediately." We received no answer to this note; but, in a few days, an answer was sent to Sir Sidney Smith, stating, that her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales was much indisposed, and could not see any one at present. This was directed to Sir Sidney Smith at our house, although he did not live there. This was an acknowledgment of her guilt: she could not face us; it was satisfactory to us all, for it said—I am the author, let me off; but to make one's satisfaction upon this the more perfect, and to warn her of the danger she runs of discovery, when she did such flagrant things, I wrote the under-written note, and put into the Post-office, directed to herself.

"MADAM,

"I received your former anonymous letter safe;  
"also your two last, with drawings.

"I am, Madam,

"Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

"CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS."

It appears evident that her Royal Highness received this safe, and felt how she had committed herself; for, instead of returning it in the old style, she sent for his Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, and requested him to send for Sir Sidney, and by the post Sir Sidney received an anonymous letter, saying, the writer of that wished for no *civil dissensions*, and that there seldom was a difference where, if the parties wished it, they could not arrange matters. Sir Sidney brought this curious letter to shew Sir John, and we were all satisfied it was from her Royal Highness, who, thinking Sir Sidney and Sir John might, by this time, be cutting each other's throats, sent very graciously to stop them: in short, she called them *civil dissensions*. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, being employed to negotiate, sent for Sir Sidney

Smith, and acquainted him, that he was desired by her Royal Highness to say, that she would see Sir Sidney Smith in the course of a few days, provided, when he came to her, he avoided all disagreeable discussions whatsoever. His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent then sought from Sir Sidney an explanation of the matter; Sir Sidney Smith then gave the Duke of Kent a full detail of circumstances, and ended by saying, "We all could, and would, swear the drawings and words contained in those covers were written by the Princess of Wales; for, as if she were fully to convict herself, she had sealed one of the covers with the identical seal she had used upon the cover, when she summoned Sir John to luncheon at Montague House." His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, finding what a scrape she had entangled herself in, exclaimed "Abominable! foolish to be sure: but Sir Sidney Smith, as this matter, if it makes a noise, may distress his Majesty and be injurious to his health, I wish Sir John and Lady Douglas would (at least for the present) try to forget it: and if my making them a visit would be agreeable, and soothe their minds, I will go with all my heart, though I am not yet acquainted with them, and I will speak fully to the Princess of Wales, and point out to her the danger of doing such things; but, at all events, it would be very injurious to His Majesty's health, if it came to his ears just now." Sir Sidney Smith came from His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent to us, and delivered His Royal Highness's message. Sir John declined all negotiation: but told Sir Sidney Smith, that he was empowered to say to the Duke of Kent from him, that of whatsoever extent he might \*

his injuries, and however anxious he might be to seek justice, yet when he received such an intimation from one of the Royal Family, he would certainly pause before he took any of those measures he meant to take; and if that was the case, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent was desirous of his being

\* So in the authenticated copy.

quiet, lest His Majesty's health or peace might be disturbed by it, his duty, and his attachment to his Sovereign were so sincere, that he would bury (for the present) his private calamity, for the sake of His Majesty's repose and the public good; but he begged to be clearly understood, that he did not mean to bind himself hereafter, but reserve to himself a full right of exposing the Princess of Wales, when he judged it might be done with greater effect, and when it was not likely to disturb the repose of this country.

Sir Sidney Smith told us that he had delivered Sir John's message, *verbatim*, to the Duke of Kent; and, a short time afterwards, his Royal Highness commanded Sir John and Sir Sidney to dine with him at Kensington Palace; but the Duke of Kent did not speak to Sir John upon the subject, and the matter rested there, and would have slept for some time, had not the Princess of Wales recommenced a fresh torrent of outrage against Sir John; and had he not discovered, that she was attempting to undermine his and Lady Douglas's character. Sir John, therefore, was compelled to communicate his situation to his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in order that he might acquaint the Royal Family of the manner the Princess of Wales was proceeding in, and to claim his Majesty's and the Heir Apparent's protection. His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, with that goodness and consideration Sir John expected from him, has informed his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who sent Sir John word, that "He desired to have a full detail of all that passed during their acquaintance with her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, and how they became known to her, it appearing to the Heir Apparent, from the representation of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, that his Majesty's dearest interests, and those of this country, were very deeply involved in the question; his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has commanded them to be very circumstantial in their detail respecting all they may know relative to the child the Princess of Wales

affected to adopt. Sir John and Lady Douglas repeat, that being so called upon, they feel it their duty to detail what they know, for the information of his Majesty and the Prince of Wales, and they have so done, as upon oath, after having very seriously considered the matter, and are ready to authenticate whatever they have said, if it should be required, for his Majesty's further information. I have drawn up this detail in the best manner I could; and fear, from my never having before attempted a thing of the kind, it will be full of errors, and being much fatigued from writing of it, from the original, it eight and forty hours, of the facts contained therein, I believe they are correct; I am ready to assert, in the most solemn manner, that I know them all to be true.

(Signed)

**CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS.  
JOHN DOUGLAS.**

In the presence of  
**AUGUSTUS FREDERICK.**

*Greenwich Park, Dec. 3, 1805.*

Copies of all the Papers alluded to in this Detail are in the hands of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales.

(Signed)

**JOHN DOUGLAS.**

In the presence of  
**AUGUSTUS FREDERICK.**

**A true Copy,**

*B. Bloomfield.*

**A true Copy,**

*J. Becket.*

*Whitehall, 29th August, 1806.*

NARRATIVE OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE  
OF KENT.

“To introduce the following relation, it is necessary for me to premise, that on entering the Prince of Wales’s bed-room, where our interview took place, my brother, after dismissing his attendants, said to me, that circumstances had come to his knowledge with respect to a transaction with the Princess of Wales, in which he found that *I* had been a party concerned; that if he had not placed the most entire reliance on my attachment to *him*, and he was pleased to add, on the well known uprightness of my character and principles, he should certainly have felt himself in no small degree offended at having learnt the facts alluded to from *others*, and *not* in the *first* instance from *me*, which he conceived himself every way entitled to expect, but more especially from that footing of confidence on which he had ever treated me through life; but that being fully satisfied my explanation of the matter would prove that he was not wrong in the opinion he had formed of the honourable motives that had actuated me in observing a silence with regard to *him* upon the subject, he then was anxiously waiting for me to proceed with a narrative, his wish to hear which he was sure he had only to express to ensure my immediate acquiescence with it. The Prince then gave me his hand, assuring me he did not feel the smallest degree of displeasure towards me, and proceeded to introduce the subject upon which he required information. When, feeling it a duty I owed to him, to withhold from his knowledge no part of the circumstances connected with it, that I could bring back to my recollection, I related the facts to him, as nearly as I can remember, in the following words:—

“About a twelvemonth since, or thereabouts, (for I cannot speak positively to the exact date) I received a note from the Princess of Wales, by which she requested me to come over to Blackheath, in order to assist her in arranging a disagreeable matter, between her, Sir Sydney Smith, and Sir John and Lady Douglas, the particulars of which she would relate to me, when I should call. I, in consequence, waited upon her, agreeable to her desire, a day or two after, when she commenced the conversa-



tion, by telling me, that she supposed I knew she had at one time lived with Lady Douglas on a footing of intimacy, but that she had had reason afterwards to repent having made her acquaintance, and was therefore rejoiced when she left Blackheath for Plymouth, as she conceived that circumstances would break off all farther communication between her and that lady. That, however, contrary to her expectation, upon the return of Sir John and her from Plymouth to London, Lady Douglas had called and left her name twice or three times, notwithstanding she must have seen that admission was refused her; that having been confirmed in the opinion she had before had occasion to form of her Ladyship by an anonymous letter she had received, in which she was very strongly cautioned against renewing her acquaintance with her, both as being unworthy of her confidence, from the liberties she had allowed herself to take with the Princess's name, and the lightness of her character, she had felt herself obliged, as Lady Douglas would not take the hint, that her visits were not wished for, to order Miss Vernon to write her a note, specifically telling her that they would in future be dispensed with; that the consequence of this had been an application, through one of her ladies, in the joint names of Sir Sydney Smith, Sir John and Lady Douglas, for an audience, to require an explanation of this, which they considered an affront; and that, being determined not to grant it, or to suffer any unpleasant discussion upon the subject, she intreated me to take whatever steps I might judge best to put an end to the matter, and rid her of all further trouble about it. I stated in reply, that I had no knowledge of either Sir John or Lady Douglas, and therefore could not, in the first instance, address myself to them, but that I had some acquaintance with Sir Sydney Smith, and if the Princess was not averse to that channel, I would try what I could in that way effect. This being assented to by the Princess, I took my leave, and immediately, on my return home, wrote a note to Sir Sydney, requesting him to call on me as soon as he conveniently could, as I had some business to speak to him upon.—Sir Sydney, in consequence, called on me (I think) the next day, when I related to him the conversation, as

above stated, that I had had with the Princess. After hearing all I had to say, he observed, that the Princess, in stating to me that her prohibition to Lady Douglas to repeat her visits at Blackheath, had led to the application for an audience of her Royal Highness, had kept from me the real cause why he, as well as Sir John and Lady Douglas, had made it, as it originated in a most scandalous anonymous letter, of a nature calculated to set on Sir John and him to cut each other's throats, which, from the hand-writing and style, they were both fully convinced, was the production of the Princess herself.—I naturally expressed my sentiments upon such conduct, on the part of the Princess, in terms of the strongest animadversion; but, nevertheless, anxious to avoid the shameful eclat which the publication of such a fact to the world must produce; the effect which its coming to the King's knowledge would probably have on his health, from the delicate state of his nerves, and all the additional misunderstandings between his Majesty and the Prince, which I foresaw would inevitably follow, were this fact, which would give the Prince so powerful a handle to express his feelings upon the countenance shewn by the King to the Princess, at a time when I knew him to be severely wounded, by his Majesty's visits to Blackheath on the one hand, and the reports he had received of the Princess's conduct on the other, to be brought to light; I felt it my bounden duty, as an honest man, to urge all these arguments with Sir Sydney Smith in the most forcible manner I was master of, adding also as a further object, worthy of the most serious consideration, the danger of any appearance of ill blood in the family at such an eventful crisis, and to press upon his mind the necessity of his using his best endeavours with Sir John Douglas, notwithstanding all the provocation that had been given them, to induce him to let the matter drop, and pursue it no further. Sir Sydney observed to me, that Sir John Douglas was a man whom, when once he had taken a line from a principle of honour, it was very difficult to persuade him to depart from it; however, as he thought that if any man could prevail upon him, he might flatter himself with being the most likely to persuade him, from the weight he had with him; he would immediately try how far he could gain upon

him, by making use of those arguments I had brought forward to induce him to drop the matter altogether.—About four or five days after this, Sir Sydney called upon me again, and informed me, that upon making use with Sir John, of those reasons which I had authorised his stating to be those by which I was actuated in making the request that he would not press the business farther, he had not been able to resist their force, but that the whole extent of promise he had been able to obtain of him, amounted to no more than that *he would, under existing circumstances, remain quiet, if left unmolested*, for that he would not pledge himself not to bring the subject forward *hereafter*, when the same motive might no longer operate to keep him silent. This result I communicated, to the best of my recollection, the following day, to the Princess, who seemed satisfied with it, and from that day to the present one, (November 10, 1805,) I never have heard the subject named again in any shape, until called upon by the Prince, to make known to him the circumstances of this transaction, as far as I could bring them to my recollection.”

And now having fulfilled what the Prince wished me to do to the best of my abilities, in case hereafter any one by whom a narrative of all the circumstances as related by Sir John and Lady Douglas, of whom I was informed by my brother, *subsequent* to our conversation, should imagine that I knew more of them than I have stated, I hereby spontaneously declare, that what I have written is the whole extent of what I was apprised of; and had the Princess thought proper to inform me of what, in the narrative of the information given by Sir John and Lady Douglas, is alluded to, I should have felt myself obliged to decline all interference in the business, and to have at the same time stated to her, that it would be impossible for me to keep a matter of such importance from the knowledge of the Prince.

(Signed)

EDWARD.

December 27, 1805.

A true Copy,  
B. BLOOMFIELD.

A true Copy,  
J. BECKET.

Whitehall, 29th August, 1806.

For the Purpose of confirming the Statement, made by Lady Douglas, of the Circumstances mentioned in her Narrative, the following Examinations have been taken, and which have been signed by the several Persons who have been examined.

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### SARAH LAMPERT.

N. B. *This witness was not examined by the Commissioners; at least, no Copy of any Examination of her's was transmitted with the other Papers; and no observation is made in the Report of the Commissioners, or in the answer of her Royal Highness upon her Examinations. It has, therefore, been thought that there was no necessity for publishing them.*

*There are two of them; one dated at Cheltenham, 8th January, 1806; the other with no date of place, but dated 29th March, 1806.*

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### MR. WILLIAM LAMPERT.

N. B. *The same observations apply to Mr. William Lampert's Examination, as to those of his Wife, with this additional circumstance, that the whole of his Examination is mere hearsay.*

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11th January, 1806.

### WILLIAM COLE.

Has been with the Prince for 21 years in this month; he went with the Princess on her marriage, and remained till April, 1802.

In 1801, he says, he had reason to be dissatisfied with the Princess's conduct. During the latter part of that year he has seen Mr. Canning several times alone with the Princess, in a room adjoining to the drawing-room, for an hour or two, of which the company took notice.

In January, 1802, Sir Sydney frequently came to dine with the Princess, and their intimacy became familiar: he has frequently dined and supped at the house, and when the Ladies have retired, about eleven o'clock, he has known Sir Sydney remain alone with the Princess an hour or two afterwards; his suspicions increased very much; and one night, about twelve o'clock, he saw a person wrapped up in a great coat, go across the park, into the gate to the green-house, and he verily believes it was Sir Sydney.

In the month of March, 1802, the Princess ordered some sandwiches, which Cole took into the drawing-room, where he found Sir Sydney talking to the Princess; he sat down the sandwiches, and retired. In a short time he went again into the room, where he found the Gentleman and Lady sitting close together, in so familiar a posture as to alarm him very much, which he expressed by a start back, and a look at the

Gentleman. He dates his dismissal from this circumstance; for, about a fortnight afterwards, he was sent for by the Duke of Kent, who told him he had seen the Princess at court the day before: that she had expressed the greatest regard for him, and that she intended to do something for him, by employing him, as a confidential person, to do her little matters in town; and his attendance at Montague House would not be required. He received this intimation with much concern; but said, her Royal Highness's pleasure must govern him.

He says, that the cordiality between the Princess and Lady D. was very soon brought about; and, he supposes, on Sir Sidney's account; that the Princess frequently went across the Heath to Lady D. where she staid till late in the evening, and that, sometimes, Lady D. and Sir Sidney have come with the Princess to Montague House late in the evening, when they have supped.

Sometime after he had left Montague House, he went down, when he spoke to Fanny Lloyd, and asked her how things went on amongst them; she said, she wished she had remained amongst them; there was strange goings on; that Sir Sidney was frequently there; and that one day, when Mary Wilson supposed the Princess to be gone into the library, she went into the bed-room, where she found a man at breakfast with the Princess; that there was a great to do about it; and that Mary Wilson was sworn to secrecy, and threatened to be turned away if she divulged what she had seen.

He does not know much of what passed at Margate in 1803.

In 1804, the Princess was at Southend, where Fanny Lloyd also was; when Cole saw her after her return, he asked how they had gone on; she said, "Delightful doings, always on ship-board, or the Captain at our house."

She told him, that one evening, when all were supposed to be in bed, Mrs. Lisle met a man in the passage; but no alarm was made—this was Captain Manby; he was constantly in the house. Mr. Cole says, that Mrs. Sander knows every thing; that she has appeared in great distress on many occasions, and has said to him, the Princess is an altered woman; he believes Sander to be a very respectable woman.

He says, that he believes Roberts to be an honest man; that Roberts has said to him.—*As Roberts himself was examined by the Commissioners, and his deposition is given in Appendix A. No. 8, what Cole says he heard him say is omitted here.*

That Arthur, the gardener, is a decent man, but does not know if he is privy to any thing.

That Bidgood is a deaf quiet man, but thinks he has not been confidentially trusted.

That Mrs. Gosden was nurse to the child, and was always up-stairs with it; she is a respectable woman; but after some



time, took upon herself much consequence, and refused to dine in the servant's hall.

In 1801, Lawrence, the painter, was at Montague House, for four or five days at a time, painting the Princess's picture; that he was frequently alone, late in the night, with the Princess, and much suspicion was entertained of him.

WM. COLE.

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*14th January, 1806.*

WILLIAM COLE.

Says, that the Princess was at Mr. Hood's, at Satherington, near Portsmouth, for near a month in the last summer, where she took her footman and servants.

That the house in which Mr. Hood lived was given up to the Princess, and he and his family, went to reside in a small house adjoining.

That the Princess and Mr. Hood very frequently went out in the forenoon, and remained out for four or five hours at a time.

That they rode in a gig, attended by a boy, (a country lad) servant to Mr. Hood, and took with them cold meat; that they used to get out of the gig, and walk into the wood, leaving the boy to attend the horse and gig till their return. This happened very frequently; that the Duke of Kent called one day, and seeing the Princess's attendants at the window, came into the house, and after waiting some time, went away without seeing the Princess, who was out with Mr. Hood.

This information Mr. Cole had from Fanny Lloyd.

When Mr. Cole found the drawing-room, which led to the staircase to the Princess's apartments, locked, he does not know whether any person was with her, but it appeared odd to him, as he had formed some suspicions.

Mr. Cole says, that he saw the Princess at Blackheath about four times in the year 1802, after he left her in April, and five or six times in London; that he had heard a story of the Princess's being with child, but cannot say that he formed an opinion that she was so; that she grew lusty, and appeared large behind: and that at the latter end of the year he made the observation, that the Princess was grown thinner.

That he cannot form an opinion about the child; that he had seen an old man and woman (about 50 years of age) at Montague House on a Sunday, and has inquired who they were, when he was answered by the servants in the hall, "That is little Billy's mother," (meaning the child the Princess had taken, and which was found by Stikeman.)

WM. COLE.

*Temple, 30th January, 1806.*

WILLIAM COLE

Says, that on the 17th of January instant, he walked from Blackheath to London with Mr. Stikeman, and, in the conversation on the road, Cole mentioned the circumstance of the little child, saying, that he was grown a fine interesting boy; to which Stikeman replied, What, do you mean Billy Austin? Cole said Yes. Pray do the old man and woman come to see the child as usual? Stikeman said, "Old man and woman! they are not old; we have not seen them much lately; they live at Deptford:" but he appeared to avoid any conversation on the subject. Cole says, that the account of the correspondence between the Princess and Captain Manby was communicated to him by Fanny Lloyd, but she never mentioned any such correspondence having taken place through Sicard, since Captain Manby went abroad.

Cole says, that he has not been in the company, or presence of the Prince alone, or had any conversation with him on this, or any other subject, since the Princess went to live at Charlton, which is near nine years ago.

WM. COLE

*23d February, 1806.*

WILLIAM COLE

Says, that a Gentleman and Lady were sitting close together on the sofa; but there was nothing particular in their dress, position of legs or arms, that was extraordinary; he thought it improper that a single Gentleman should be sitting quite close to a married Lady on the sofa; and from that situation, and former observations, he thought the thing improper.

The person who was alone with the Lady at late hours of the night (twelve and one o'clock,) and whom he left sitting up after he went to bed, was Mr. Lawrence the painter, which happened two different nights at least.

As to the observation made about Sir Sidney having a key of every door about the gardens, it was a gardener, who was complaining of the door of the green-house being left open, and the plants damaged, and who made the same to Mr. Lampert, the servant of Sir John Douglas, and which he mentioned at Cheltenham to Sir John and Mr. Lowten.

Lampert said he should know the gardener again.

*Temple, 4th April, 1806.*

ROBERT BIDGOOD.

Have lived with the Prince 23 years on the 18th of September next, and have been with the Princess since 21st March, 1798. In 1802, we were at Blackheath, and did not go to any other place: in 1801, Sir Sidney Smith left his card at Monta-

gue House, and he was afterwards invited to dinner; and, in the Spring of 1802, Lady Douglas came to reside at the Tower, where she stayed about three weeks. During this time Sir Sidney was frequently at the House, both morning and evening, and remained till three or four o'clock in the morning. He has seen Sir Sidney in the blue parlour early (by ten o'clock) in the morning: and, on inquiring from the footman how he came there without his knowledge, they said, they had not let him in, and knew nothing of his being there. He does not know of Sir Sidney being alone till three or four o'clock in the morning, as there were other Ladies in the house. During the year 1802, the Princess used to ride out in her phaeton, attended by Mrs. Fitzgerald, and took out cold meat, and went towards Dartford, where she spent the day, and returned about six or seven in the evening,—Williams, the coachman, always attended the Princess.

Lady Douglas, during the year 1802, was constantly at Montague House, and was admitted at all times. The Princess was used frequently to go to Lady Douglas's house, where Sir Sidney resided; at the end of that year there was a misunderstanding between Lady Douglas and the Princess; and one day he saw Lady Douglas leave the house in tears, and afterwards she has not visited the Princess. Mr. Bidgood's wife has lately told him, that Fanny Lloyd told her, that Mary Wilson had told Lloyd, that one day, when she went into the Princess's room, she found the Princess and Sir Sidney in the fact; that she (Wilson) immediately left the room, and fainted at the door.

In the winter of 1802, and the spring of 1803, Captain Manby became a visitor at Montague House; his frigate was fitting out at Deptford, and Bidgood has reason to believe, that the Princess fitted up his cabin, for he has seen the cotton furniture brought to the Princess to choose the pattern, which was sent to Blake, her upholsterer, in London-street, Greenwich. When Captain Manby was about to sail, he was walking in the anti-room, to let Captain Manby out: and, as he stayed some time, Bidgood looked into the room, and from a mirror on the opposite side of the room to where Captain Manby and the Princess stood, he saw Captain Manby kissing the Princess's lips; and soon afterwards he went away. He saw the Princess, with her handkerchief to her face, and go into the drawing-room, apparently in tears.

In 1803, was not with the Princess at Margate.

In 1804, was with the Princess at Southend. We went there the 2d of May; Sicard was constantly on the look-out for the *Africaine*, Captain Manby's ship; and about a month afterwards, Sicard descried the ship, before she came to the Nore. The instant the ship cast anchor, the Captain came on shore in

his boat to the Princess. The Princess had two houses, Nos. 8 and 9. She lived at No. 9; and on Sicard seeing Captain Manby come on shore, he ran down the shrubbery to meet, and shewed him into the house, No. 9; Captain Manby was constantly at No. 9; and used to go in the evening on board his ship, for some weeks; but afterwards he did not return on board the ship in the evening, and Bidgood had seen him in the morning, by ten o'clock, in the house, No. 9; and, from the circumstance of towels, water, and glasses, being placed in the passage, he had reason to believe that Manby had slept there all night.

In 1805, Bidgood was not with the Princess in Hampshire.

After the Princess returned from Hampshire, Captain Hood used to visit the Princess at Blackheath alone, without his wife. Captain Hood used to come about twelve o'clock, and was shewn into the blue room, where luncheon was ordered; and the Princess and the Captain were alone together, without a lady or other attendant. He used to stay dinner, and sometimes in boots; about an hour afterwards coffee was ordered; after which the Princess retired, and Captain Hood had also left the room, and had not been let out of the house by any of the servants. Bidgood has not seen Captain Hood since about Christmas last.

Bidgood has strong suspicions that Mrs. Sander used to deliver letters to Sicard, which he conceived to be from the Princess to Captain Manby, as Sicard used to put the letters into his pocket, and not into the common bag for letters.

Mrs. Sander must be fully informed of all the circumstances above alluded to. Mary Wilson and Miss Mielfield must also know all the circumstances.

Bidgood has seen the mother (as she is called) of the little boy frequently at Montague House; the child was about three weeks old when he first saw it. The mother was at Montague House on Monday last. The husband worked at Deptford Yard; but was discharged, and Stikeman has since employed him at his house in town. The mother appears to be better dressed than usual.

(Signed)

R. BIDGOOD.

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### SARAH BIDGOOD.

About six months ago, in a conversation with Fanny Lloyd, respecting the general conduct of the Princess, she said, that whilst Sir Sidney visited the Princess, that Mary Wilson had gone into the bed-room to make up the fire, and found the Princess and Sir Sidney in such an indecent situation, that she immediately left the room, and was so shocked that she fainted away at the door.



(This witness was not examined before the Commissioners; at least, no Copy of such Examination, if there was any, was transmitted with the other Papers. The first paragraph in her examination is, however, stated above, as it is observed upon in the Princess's Answer; but the remainder, not being adverted to, either by the Commissioners' Report, or by the Answer, and being all hearsay, is omitted.)

Temple, 12th May, 1806.

FRANCES LLOYD,

FROM RIPLEY IN SURREY.

To the best of my knowledge, Mary Wilson said that she had seen the Princess and Sir Sidney in the blue room; but she is so close a woman that she never opens her mouth on any occasion; never heard Mary Wilson say she was so alarmed as to be in a fit.

Heard the gardener at Ramsgate say one day, at dinner, that he had seen Mr. Sicard and Captain Manby go across the lawn towards a subterraneous passage leading to the sea.

When her Royal Highness was going to the launch, Sir Andrew Hammond and his son came by the day before, and dined with her, and in the next morning, about four o'clock, after the doors of the house were open, she saw Captain Manby sitting in the drawing-room of the adjoining house to her Royal Highness, which room belonged to her.

One morning, about six o'clock, she was called to get breakfast for her Royal Highness, when she saw Captain Manby, and her walking in the garden, at Ramsgate.

Heard from Mrs. Lisle's maid, that the Princess, when at Lady Sheffield's, went out of her bed-room, and could not find her way back; but nothing more.

About four years ago, as I think, Mr. Mills attended me for a cold, and, in conversation he asked me if the Prince visited at our house? I said, not to my knowledge. He said the Princess certainly was with child.

FRANCES LLOYD.

A true copy,

(Signed) J. Becket.

Whitehall, 29th August, 1806.

FINIS.





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